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1935

The NATIONAL WOOL GROWER



Volume XXV Number 4

APRIL, 1935

Editorial Comment From Washington on Sheep and Wool Affairs

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The Lamb Market Enigma

+ +

Washington Activities of The Wool Marketing Committee

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New Mexico Stockmen in Convention

+ +

The Need for Regulation of the Use of Public Driveways

+ +

Special Drive to Increase The Demand for Lamb

Official Organ of the
NATIONAL WOOL GROWERS
ASSOCIATION
Salt Lake City, Utah

and the
NATIONAL WOOL MARKETING
CORPORATION
Boston, Mass.

The Advice of Men - - -

*who make fortunes is
worth more than of
those who tell fortunes*

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SACRAMENTO, CALIF.

WRITE FOR CATALOG

Out April 30, to California Wool Growers Association,
595 Mission St., San Francisco

WOOL SHOW SAME TIME AND PLACE

IT'S THE HOUSEWIFE who controls the price of livestock



● Many producers, we feel sure, have never stopped to realize that it is really the housewife who controls the price of hogs, sheep, and cattle. This is true because it is the housewife who controls the price of pork, lamb, and beef.

If she thinks prices are too high for her pocket book, she either buys cheaper cuts of meat or turns to meat substitutes. When this occurs, the price of meat must come down to the level where she will buy readily, for meat is highly perishable—and must be sold at about the rate at which it is produced.

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R.H. Cassee
President

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The NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

Official Organ of the
NATIONAL WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION
and the
NATIONAL WOOL MARKETING CORPORATION

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Editorial Comment from Washington on Sheep and Wool Affairs

Washington, D. C.
April 3, 1935.

BELOVE it or not, it is a real aggravation to be tied up in Washington for nearly two months when one's home and supposedly regular work is in God's own western country.

The Secretary must stay wherever the prospects are best for getting practical results for the membership of his association, and by this rule I felt compelled to remain in Washington rather beyond my expectations when I wrote this page from the Capitol City last month. The fact that the Secretary of the National Wool Growers Association is also an editor is purely incidental, although somewhat inconvenient.

There are nine large and small matters affecting wool growers' interests which are still pending here, many in the Departments and a few of them in the Congress. I shall comment on each of them briefly in the paragraphs below, mixing in a little of the gossip and unprinted information about what is going on.

Study of Forest Grazing Economics

The official announcement that the Forest Service will conduct an economic study of the proper basis of the distribution of forest grazing permits appears elsewhere in this issue of the Wool Grower. We had hoped that no material cuts would be made in advance of the recommendations derived from such a study. However, those that have been made are included as one-year permits, though the new ones that once have been granted, even on an annual basis, are not likely to be checked back to the old users, should the ten-year permits be reissued for 1936. The Idaho situation has been strongly before the minds of the Forest Service people lately and the corresponding situation in Utah is soon to engage their attention. These special situations should help to give particular direction to the economic study.

Public Domain and Taylor Act Amendments

On public domain matters practically nothing has really happened. Director Carpenter expects to offer the representatives of the national associations some tentative rules and regulations very soon. The Secretary of the American National Live Stock Association is due here next week and we shall work together on this matter. Nothing has been done in connection with appointments of assistant directors of grazing and graziers for employment in the administration of the Taylor Act. Probably no appointments will be made before July, and the method of selection may be changed before that time.

The House Committee on Public Lands reported out the Administration bill for amendment of the Taylor Act. It allowed the extension of grazing districts to any desired area within the 163 million acres of public domain. It liberalized the methods of leasing isolated tracts as set up in section 15 of the law. The Secretary of the Interior was given broader powers in this connection, but the committee added a provision to the Administration proposal, under which it is still essential that owners of adjoining property be given first consideration in the leasing of any isolated tracts. The committee refused to recommend the cancellation of the McCarran clause, which was inserted by the Senate Committee last year. This is the clause which would prevent the Administration from discontinuing permits held by parties carrying loans on their outfits, the appraisal of which is closely associated with the right to graze on government lands. The committee added a new section providing that the Secretary of the Interior could appoint necessary assistant directors, without regard to examinations or other qualifications. This, of course, probably means a good deal of political consideration but really authorizes Secretary Ickes to appoint any man he desires, regardless of age, educational or legal tests. The requirements for graziers are also liberalized, though to a lesser degree. No special educational accomplishments are now required, such as the necessity of a high school education, as carried in the original Civil Service announcement.

The amended House bill is pretty well down on the calendar and may not come to a vote for some time. And apparently the Senate Committee does not contemplate holding hearings until after the bill reaches it through passage by the House of Representatives.

Processing Taxes

No legislation for amendment of the Agricultural Adjustment Act has yet been passed. Apparently the Smith-Gregory amendment is doomed. This was the proposal to put a processing tax on all livestock for the creation of a fund from which benefit payments would be made to farmers who reduced their acreage of feed crops. The House Committee is having a strenuous time in attempting to agree on just how much additional power shall be granted the Secretary of Agriculture in respect to licensing and controlling the operations of processors of agricultural products. The committee was reported as in agreement last Friday, but they reconsidered and their final decision has not yet been reported. The Senate Committee still has the matter under advisement, but apparently is not making any haste. This Congress, which it was predicted would be a wild one, is apparently swinging to the conservative

side in the matter of granting extreme powers to executive officials.

Vice President E. S. Mayer testified before the Senate Agricultural Committee on March 15 for the National Wool Growers Association. He and Mr. J. B. Wilson objected strongly to the proposed plan of placing processing taxes upon livestock. They also expressed approval of such change in legislation as would permit the A.A.A. officials to take action in connection with wool marketing for the purpose of securing for growers prices comparable to the average of those that prevailed during the period from 1919 to 1929. There has been no discussion of any plan of production control for sheep or wool.

A.A.A. officials are greatly disconcerted over the amendment placed in the Public Works Act by southern senators, for the purpose of authorizing the use of P.W.A. funds for the making of benefit payments under crop reduction agreements. The cotton manufacturers are complaining bitterly over processing taxes. This last move is calculated to prepare the way for removal of the processing taxes and paying the farmers direct from the public treasury. This is a serious contravention of the whole A.A.A. theory and the final result is hard to foresee.

New Truth-In-Fabric Bill

Senator Capper, of Kansas, has introduced a modified truth-in-fabric bill, which was submitted to him by the American Farm Bureau Federation and by Mr. J. B. Wilson and myself for the wool growers. This bill provides for the showing of the extent of use of any but principal materials in any textile. The presence of cotton or rayon as well as reworked wool in wool fabrics would need to be shown, as well as any substitutes or other fibers which might be present in silk, rayon, or cotton materials.

Status of Direct Marketing

The bill aimed at the prevention of direct marketing of livestock has not yet been set for hearing. It is possible that its consideration will not be taken up at this session, though it is intimated that some Administration suggestions for amendment to the Packers and Stockyards Act may be considered.

F. C. A. Matters

The Senate passed the bill amending the Farm Credit Administration Act and included the Carey clause, providing that land bank loans could be made to corporations of which the members were actually engaged in agricultural pursuits connected with such corporations. The bill also provided for partial recognition of value of forest or public domain grazing rights in connection with the appraisal of properties of livestock outfits.

When the bill went to the House Committee these two amendments were eliminated during a brief discussion. It is expected that the measure will soon come to a vote in the House and that material adjustments will be worked out by the Conference Committee.

The 1935 Wool Plan

The main actual event of the last month in connection with wool marketing was the announcement of the Farm Credit Administration regarding its 1935 wool plan. In accordance with our association's resolution adopted at Phoenix, I stood for the continuation of the plan as in effect in 1933-34. Although in a minority, I was not alone in my position. My dissenting report was presented verbally to Governor Myers, but he decided to support the majority plan. It is yet too early to know just how this may work out. Ordinarily such a large measure of withdrawal from a plan that carried a good deal of price support in it would be very serious. In fact, some manufacturers had predicted that things would come to a standstill, if the government should show any signs of weakening on its position in regard to wool prices. On the other hand, the mill demand is keeping up surprisingly well and, in addition, the government is putting out heavy contracts for woolen goods. This has created the situation which was greatly hoped for by giving a large measure of offset to counteract the effect on market prices of the rather large carry-over of 1934 wools. These stocks are now disappearing rapidly. Some members of the trade have even suggested that consumption will continue at the present rate throughout the year, and that the available supplies of 1934 and 1935 domestic wools will be exhausted before the 1936 season. This is a very optimistic view, but it is not entirely impossible.

It is not yet clear just how the remaining measure of wool price control is to be effected under the revamped plan. Apparently the matter is to be left largely in the hands of the approved consignees. It is reported that these concerns are pretty well sold out on their 1934 purchased stocks, which therefore means that the mill trade is now being taken care of mainly from consignments. The final details of operation in 1935 of what remains of the Wool Advisory Committee plan are to be worked out at the meeting of the committee in Boston soon after April 8.

Work of the Wool Marketing Committee

A summary of attempts of the Wool Marketing Committee during the last few weeks is presented in this issue as a partial report of Mr. J. B. Wilson, who has been acting as chairman of the special committee set up in accordance with the action of the Phoenix convention. The R.F.C. does not yet seem to be sympathetic with any form of loans that would be a direct support to the 1935 wool market. However, their last word has not yet been said. The A.A.A. people seem to understand the situation better. It seemed for awhile as though the wool marketing agreement could be worked out in a useful way, but the dealers' organization vetoed that suggestion. Since their cooperation is imperative under the present law, nothing further could be attempted now and some helpful form of license or fair trade practice provisions may yet be worked out in time to be of value to the wool growers.

in connection with the coming marketing season, especially for those who elect to consign and whose clips may be sold later in the year.

Considered solely from the standpoint of the wool situation, the summer and fall markets look rather comforting. This, however, is based on the assumption that general business activity and consumer purchasing continues to advance. It must be confessed that the general atmosphere around Washington these days is not optimistic. There is no intimation of impairment of government credit, but many of the older heads are plainly alarmed as to what may be the final result of present plans for expenditures from the public treasury.

The latest boosting publicity refers to the "final up-swing." This is the latest word for what was so confidently spoken of some years ago as the "return of prosperity," "just around the corner," etc. Of course, the final up-swing is bound to come some time, but it is yet too early to say whether it is actually in motion at this time.

Lamb Prices

This issue of the Wool Grower also reports some new activities on the part of the lamb feeders and the

packing industry in connection with the movement of the present crop of fed lambs. This is all necessary and much to be commended. At the same time, a sheepman can not avoid some difficulty in trying to reconcile the present situation with that which existed in 1930 and 1931. At that time larger supplies of lamb were going on the market than are now being slaughtered. The explanation of the price situation was that the high price of lamb was causing a lot of people to turn to the cheaper pork and beef. With lamb the cheapest of all meats, now, it is hard to see why the consuming public should not take the price into account and go back to lamb. With proper allowance for present wool and pelt values, it must still seem that the existing supply of lamb carcasses could be merchandised at a price which would permit the payment of 10 cents for the better class of live lambs sold on foot. Some inquiries in this connection have been addressed to the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Swift & Company. The letter of inquiry appears in this issue and it is my hope that Mr. Swift's reply will reach the office soon enough to be printed at the same time.

Lower Wool Prices Unlikely— Growers' Efforts Effective

THE present wool price situation and results of efforts of the growers' committee at Washington are presented in the following statement by William H. Butler, reprinted from the Boston Transcript of April 4, 1935. Messrs. Wilson, Mayer, and Marshall now are in Washington, Secretary Marshall having been there continuously since March 1.

Dealers here are selling wool at the rate of approximately 9,000,000 pounds, grease basis, per week. This figure embraces sales reported by approved houses to the Wool and Mohair Advisory Committee, almost entirely staple in the grease, and a miscellaneous assortment of plied, scoured, grease and foreign wools handled by the wool trade at large. Sales during the past three or four weeks have been about equivalent to the actual consumption taking place in the mills, but earlier in the year mill consumption was far ahead of purchasing. The market is active at prices believed to meet the best interest of dealers and manufacturers, and the quicker the surplus is moved out of the way to consuming interests, the more encouraging

becomes the position of the wool growers regarding the basic price for the 1935 clip.

Mill buying at this time covers a wide range. The several classes of original-bag western wool are in free demand. In the graded territories the half-blood is selling at from 62 to 64 cents and the French combing at from 60 to 62 cents. Average twelve months Texas is selling around 62 cents and the eight months at 56 cents with some sales of fall Texas around 50 cents.

Although wool is being sold in considerable volume, there is no profit in such operations. The bulk of the wool that is being taken by manufacturers, and to their advantage, is at the expense of the sellers. It is not unlikely that some who are selling wool at a loss are hoping to have an opportunity to replace such sales at lower prices for new-clip wool, though there seems to be little ground for expecting such opportunities to occur. If circumstances should conspire to bring about a lower basis for the new clip, the AAA would step in at the request of the strong growers' committee lobbying in Washington and set up some plan for licensing all dealers, probably fixing some upset price for native grown wool.

Interest Rates Lowered on New Land Bank Loans

W. I. MYERS, Governor of the Farm Credit Administration, announced March 25 that, effective April 1, 1935, new loans made by the federal land banks will bear 4½ per cent interest per annum where made through national farm loan associations and 5 per cent where made directly by the banks.

Proposed Increase of Funds for Coyote Work

AN allowance of \$453,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1936, was made for the work of the Biological Survey in control of predatory animals and rodents, by the House of Representatives. This was the same amount that was allotted for this purpose in the present fiscal year.

When the bill was passed by the Senate at the end of March, it carried \$1,000,000 for this purpose. The Conference Committee is now working on the differences between the House and Senate bills and there

CALENDAR

Junior Live Stock and Baby Beef Show, South San Francisco—April 14-18

California Ram Sale and Wool Show, Sacramento—May 22-23

is an excellent prospect that the Senate amendment will be accepted with the largest amount yet made available for predatory animal and rodent work. Senators Steiwer of Oregon, Hayden of Arizona, and Carey of Wyoming, and Congressmen Lea of California and Robinson and Murdock of Utah, were especially active on this matter. The larger appropriation is the amount authorized by the Congress in 1930, when the bill providing the ten-year program was passed. That bill authorized \$1,000,000 per year, but the amount has never been appropriated until now. This arrangement will permit the Biological Survey to put on a fully adequate force of permanent employees to prosecute the

work of cleaning up coyotes and rodents. Some of the ground that has been lost during the last few years of reduced appropriations should be regained and real headway made toward reducing the numbers of predatory animals to a point that will be highly beneficial to western stockmen and also will permit the keeping of numbers down to a minimum, without continuing large expenditures. The situation is a little unfortunate in that many states and counties are not in a financial position to contribute as much money for cooperative use as they formerly did, but the appropriation of the larger amount from the Federal Treasury is highly gratifying and will bring great benefits.

Inspection—Raw materials in process of manufacture and the finished blankets may be subject to preliminary factory inspection at the point of production. Acceptance or approval of material in course of manufacture shall in no case be construed as a guaranty of the acceptance of the finished product. Final inspection of the blanket may be made either at point of production or at point of delivery as designated by the procuring agency. The contractor shall inspect all finished blankets for compliance with this specification, prior to delivery to final inspection. In case of factory inspection, the manufacturer shall furnish the inspectors every facility for the prosecution of their duties.

Noils and some reworked wools are regularly used in the production of heavy weight cloth for overcoats. The recent contract permits 35 per cent. The specifications for 32-ounce overcoating material were as follows:

Material—Woolen yarn, composed of 55 per cent wool, grade 44's or finer, 10 per cent wool, grade 58's or finer, 35 per cent reworked wool or noils. Maximum allowable percentage of residue on boil out 2½ per cent. Broken sliver from cards and mules made from the mixture of this fabric, not exceeding 10 per cent may be added to the blend.

Breaking strength—1 by 1 by 3 grab method, not less than 80 pounds in the warp and not less than 65 pounds in the filling.

For the 20-ounce suiting material, three types were specified, (a) all worsted, (b) worsted warp and wool filling, and (c) all wool.

Type A.—Warp shall be 2-ply worsted, not lower in grade than 64's. The filling shall be single or 2-ply worsted of a grade not lower than 64's. It shall be well combed, drawn, and evenly spun.

Type B.—Warp shall be 2-ply worsted not lower in grade than 60's. The filling shall be woolen yarn made from 70 per cent of not lower grade than 56's and 30 per cent of noils or garnetted waste, or 15 per cent of each of a grade not lower than 56's.

Type C.—Warp and filling shall be woolen yarn made from not lower than 50's grade. Garnetted hard ends made at the time when the cloth is being manufactured may be used to the amount of not more than 20 per cent of the weight.

The specifications for texture and tests, in part, were as follows:

Texture

Type A.—Not less than 56 ends per inch in the warp and not less than 52 picks per inch in the filling, when finished.

Type B.—Not less than 50 ends per inch in the warp and not less than 48 picks per inch in the filling, when finished.

Woolen Goods Contracted by War Department

LAST month contracts were let by the War Department representing a total of 20 million pounds of grease wool. The orders included 2,842,800 yards of 10½-ounce flannel shirting, 1,047,000 yards of 32-ounce overcoating, 2,766,000 yards of 20-ounce suiting, and 218,750 blankets to weigh 3½ pounds each. Shirtings, overcoatings, and suiting are for C. C. Camps and the blankets are for regular Army use.

Appropriations since made by Congress call for an increase of over 40,000 men in the regular Army. New full equipment will be required for this new army, as former reserve supplies have been issued in the last two years to C. C. Camps.

Misleading reports about the quality of Army woolens and the determination of prices have been circulating in recent months. One is that the Army sets such low prices that bidders are compelled to make large use of wool substitutes. The fact is the War Department does not name any prices. It issues descriptions and specifications covering the materials to be purchased and then invites bids from manufacturers. The materials used are inspected during the process of making the

goods and all yardage is subject to strictest government tests to ensure its being up to specifications.

The blankets upon which bids were received last month are to contain only virgin wool. The specifications on blankets, and provision for inspection were in part as follows:

Wool—The warp and filling yarns shall be made from a blend of 56's to 60's, inclusive, U. S. Standard Grade wools. Either fleece and/or pulled wool may be used. No wools finer than 60's shall be used and the percentage of 56's wools in the blend shall be not more than 50 per cent.

Yarns—The warp and filling yarns shall be evenly spun on the woolen system.

Size—The minimum measurements of the finished blanket shall be 84 inches in length and 66 inches in width, with a plus tolerance of 2 inches in both dimensions.

Weave—The weave shall be that known as a two up and two down broken twill, with two ends to the right and two ends to the left.

Finish—The finished blanket shall be free from vegetable matter, sufficiently fulled, napped and tuck napped to produce a degree of finish equal to that of the standard sample. The napping process shall be started wet and no single acting napper shall be used. To produce the required finish the blankets should be reeded not less than 82 inches and the breaking strength after fulling but before napping should be not less than 65 lbs. in the warp and 80 lbs. in the filling (1x1x3 grab method).

Type C.—Not less than 47 ends per inch in the warp and not less than 45 picks per inch in the filling, when finished.

Weave—Four harness twill, two up and two down preferred, but other weaves will be considered, provided fabric is sufficiently close, firm and compact.

Color—The color of all these fabrics shall be obtained by mixing olive and white. The colored stock may be either stock, top, or slab dyed.

Weight—Not less than 19½ nor more than 20½ ounces, computed on 56-inch width and at 11 per cent regain.

Width—Not less than 56 nor more than 58 inches, including selvage.

Breaking Strength—

Type A.—Not less than 158 pounds in the warp and not less than 95 pounds in the filling.

Type B.—Not less than 100 pounds in the warp and not less than 85 pounds in the filling.

Type C.—Not less than 78 pounds in the warp and not less than 67 pounds in the filling.

The grab method is to be used for breaking strength tests.

On flannel shirting the material requirements were as follows:

Wool—The wool is to be either fleece or pulled wool of sound, strong staple not lower in grade than 60's United States Standard.

Cotton—The cotton shall be of good grade and staple.

Mixture—The component parts of the mixture shall be white wool, dyed wool and dyed cotton; each shall be thoroughly and separately carded and combed before blending for the after process of drawing and spinning.

Yarn—The wool and cotton shall be blended and spun on the French system of worsted spinning into a yarn even as to size, color, and fiber distribution, which will produce a finished fabric containing not less than eighty (80) per cent of wool.

Recent announcement has been made that the War Department has decided to exercise its option of ordering larger quantities than mentioned in the original contracts. It is now stated that the total orders under the March bids will represent 30,000,000 pounds of wool.

The Lamb Market Enigma

THE lamb market usually presents an inscrutable front, through which only study, combined with a good deal of experience, can break. Ordinarily, however, the cause of the ups and downs can be ferreted out, but at present the prevailing low lamb prices seem to have reached the height of inexplicability, and in an effort to have some light thrown on the situation, the Secretary of the National Wool Growers Association made the following inquiry of Mr. Charles H. Swift, chairman of the Board of Directors of Swift and Company, on March 28:

Dear Mr. Swift:

About two weeks ago I met your Vice President N. R. Clark here, and had a very short talk with him about the condition of the lamb market. He indicated that he would see Mr. Smith and write me, but I have heard nothing more.

I have been East for some weeks and have not been informed regarding the representations made by the lamb feeders in connection with the present marketing situation. You will, of course, readily appreciate that the situation is very alarming to the range men, who have had five years' of heavy losses.

In 1930 and 1931, when lamb carcasses were selling at from 25 to 30 cents, we

were given to understand that their high price contrasted with the lower price of beef and pork created a difficult situation in selling. It therefore seems very strange at this time to find considerable amounts of beef being merchandised on the basis of \$14 for cattle, and pork on the basis of \$9, while lambs are running below \$8.50. It would not seem that there was much direct price competition between lamb and other meats.

From the close of the fed lamb season in 1934 to the time of the main movement of fat range lambs the market declined about \$3. Should this be repeated in 1935, it will of course mean complete ruination to lamb producers. At the same time there does not seem to be anything in the present situation to suggest to us that there might not be such a change between spring and fall prices.

We would particularly like to have you inform us as to just what amount of pelt credit is allowed on fed lambs being slaughtered at this time of year; also how this credit compares with one year ago and two years ago.

We certainly will appreciate any information or suggestions you can give the growers in this connection, and would be very glad to give publicity to your comments through the columns of the National Wool Grower.

With best regards, I am

Yours very truly,

F. R. Marshall.

Mr. Swift's reply follows:

April 3, 1935.

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Am glad to have your letter of March 28. Mr. N. R. Clark did not forget his conversation with you, but immediately on his return from Washington was taken sick and did not return to the office until the latter part of the following week. Upon his return he immediately talked with Mr. Smith regarding your conversation with him. Not knowing whether you were still in Washington, Mr. Smith wrote to Mr. F. M. Simpson to ascertain your address, and before this letter reached Mr. Simpson at Washington he had left for Chicago. Consequently, no one here at Chicago knew where to reach you, and Mr. Smith has since been actively trying to locate you.

We, too, are greatly concerned and distressed by the fact that lambs are selling at prices very unsatisfactory to lamb producers. It is true that lambs are realizing the producer less than a year ago. At that time, in 1934, I believe lambs were bringing considerably better returns to the producer than were cattle or hogs. Perhaps part of the decrease in lamb prices from the close of the fed season of 1934 to the main movement of fat range lambs was due to some reaction from the relatively high price of lamb in the Spring of 1934.

The reason that cattle and hog prices have advanced is apparently due to short supply. This is shown by figures of receipts obtained from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, which show that cattle receipts at the 7 principal markets for the first 3 months of 1935 compared to the same period in 1934 decreased 12 per cent. Hog receipts for the same period decreased 43 per cent, whereas for the same period lamb increased 2 per cent.

The heavy supply of lambs coming as they have this year in rather disorderly fashion has been the main factor in depressing the live market; but wool has also had a considerable influence on lamb prices this year. At the present time pelts from wool lambs have a value of about \$1.85 per 100 lbs. live weight of the lambs. A year ago this value was \$2.75 per 100 lbs., and two years ago was \$1.00 per 100 lbs.

As you may know, a group of lamb producers in connection with the National Meat Board and the packers are at present making strenuous efforts to improve consumption and demand of lamb, with the hope of improving lamb prices to the producer.

We, of course, do not know what the future has in store. However, the fact that lamb prices are now unsatisfactory to producers—largely due to heavy supplies—should not have any particular bearing on the price that the growers will realize this year on fat range lambs. This will largely depend upon the supply and the value of wool, and the popularity of lamb with the consumers at that season of the year.

Yours very truly,

Charles H. Swift

Push the Wool Curve Upward

THE organization of the Associated Wool Industries for the promotion of wool was reported in the March issue of the National Wool Grower. Manufacturers, dealers, and producers have joined in an effort to put wool in its proper high place in consumer purchasing. Official headquarters have been set up at 386 Fourth Avenue, New York. The control of the activities of the new organization rests chiefly in the executive committee, which is made up of five dealers, eight manufacturers, and two growers, the growers' representatives being President Ellenwood and Secretary Marshall. The board of directors, a much larger group, includes all of the officers of the National Wool Growers Association and the members of its executive committee, and presumably similar representation for the manufacturers and dealers.

It is, of course, quite human to wish that programs of this kind could function immediately, that overnight they could generate sufficient power to produce quick results. But there are no magic lamps or carpets now; the momentum for such activities must be supplied by hard effort and cold cash. So far as the wool campaign is concerned, both the dealers and manufacturers have contributed and the growers are now being pledged for their portion through the deduction of ten cents a bag on all shipments of wool, either consigned or sold. The preceding issue of the Wool Grower carried a reproduction of these authorization blanks.

The Associated Wool Industries has issued instructions to all buyers and agents of wool dealers and commission houses for obtaining the signatures of the growers to these blanks. In settling for purchases from the grower, these instructions

state, the deduction of 10 cents per bag is to be made before draft or check is issued and a notation of the deduction is to appear on the invoice of settlement. Where wool is consigned, the deduction will be made when the account sale is rendered.

The statement to wool buyers also contains the following memorandum to growers from Secretary Marshall, dated March 14:

To All Growers:

The contribution to the Associated Wool Industries for wool promotion of 10 cents per bag to be deducted from all shipments of wool, either consigned or sold, has been fully endorsed by resolutions adopted at the recent meetings of the National Wool Growers Association at Phoenix, as well as at several state conventions, including California and Montana.

I believe that wool promotion is vital to our industry and ask for the cooperation of every grower in the country.

Very sincerely yours,
Fred R. Marshall

Procedure to be followed in this concerted effort to advance wool has not yet been announced. Such work naturally falls into three fields: first, that of making people in general "wool-conscious" by publicity through magazines, newspapers, radio, the movies, demonstrations and exhibits in schools, women's clubs, and so on; second, that of influencing people to buy wool by keeping it in "high" fashion; and third, that of helping retail stores to sell wool. That there will be no groping around in the dark is definitely assured. Preliminary work done by the wool trade association last year showed very clearly that there are certain areas in the textile world that wool has every qualification necessary to acquire. For example, there is the territory of men's summer clothing. It is pointed out that the total yardage in tropical worsteds purchased in 1933 was 1,465,627 square yards. On the basis of a male population in the United States of 46,000,000, it would only be necessary to induce one man in a 100 to pur-

chase a tropical or summer suit to bring the purchases up to 2,415,000 square yards, or an increase of 165 per cent.

Likewise it has been shown that the wool selling season for women's wear could be developed from the ordinary two months' period in the fall to six or more months; also that a good spring trade for women's wool dresses, the logical time really for their use, is also possible of development.

These, of course, represent only a little of the ground to be covered in the promotion of wool, which eventually means more profitable returns to all connected with the industry. But the wool curve cannot be pushed upward by the rubbing of a lamp or the recital of mystical incantations—it requires the financial, moral, and every other kind of support from the entire wool textile industry, and the growers will undoubtedly want to do their full part by signing the authorization for the deduction of 10 cents a bag on their wool shipments.

Meat Promotion in California

AN intensive two-week program to increase meat consumption in California is now in progress under the direction of the National Live Stock and Meat Board. Mr. Max O. Cullen, head of the meat merchandising department of the Board, and its western representative, Mr. Davenport R. Phelps, have charge of the work.

The campaign, which began in Los Angeles on March 24, calls for lectures and demonstrations in the larger cities over the entire state before April 15. In connection with these demonstrations, large quantities of literature on meat are being distributed to wholesalers, retailers, and others connected with the industry and to many thousands of housewives. Good attendances, keen interest and enthusiasm have been in evidence at all the meetings held so far.

Around the Range Country

WESTERN TEXAS

Conditions have been rather unfavorable for livestock as a rule, chiefly as a result of insufficient moisture which has held back spring forage. Temperatures were unusually high, however, and while this was favorable on livestock directly, it tended to desiccate the country, which was already deficient in moisture. Parts of the area have had a little more than normal precipitation, but the showers were a long way apart, and there were ten or more days between them, allowing the forage to show the need for moisture.

Brownwood

Conditions are very, very bad in extreme West Texas; worse than last year and much worse than two years ago. There is no feed on the spring range, but it is fair in central areas.

Our death loss during the winter has been 20 per cent. The number of ewes lambing was only about 70 per cent of that of last year and the number of lambs saved per hundred ewes was about 25 per cent below that of 1934.

Shearers were paid 7 cents and board; when boarding themselves, they got 10 cents.

Coyotes are being killed out in this section and have not caused us much trouble during the past season.

Production costs have increased greatly on account of the dry weather.

Coalson Brothers.

ARIZONA

Most of the month was cold, warming appreciably at the close. Scattered precipitation was helpful in places but most of the state needs more. However, forage and water conditions for livestock are generally good, and livestock have held up well. New grass is available in most

THE notes on weather conditions, appearing under the names of the various states in Around the Range Country, are furnished by J. Cecil Alter of the U. S. Weather Bureau and based upon reports and publications for the month of March.

The Wool Grower welcomes and desires communications from interested readers in any part of the country for this department of the Wool Grower and also invites comment and opinions upon questions relating to the sheep industry and of importance and significance to wool growers.

native range country, and snow covers the higher ranges, assuring moisture at least for early summer in those areas.

Phoenix

Weather and feed conditions here are excellent, about 100 per cent better than for two or three years past at this season, and the spring ranges will be very good.

The results of lambing are about the same as they were a year ago from about the same number of ewes. Winter death losses averaged about 5 per cent.

Sales of wool are being made at from 15 to 18 cents and 10 cents is being advanced on consignments.

Sheepmen of this section have saved considerable in feed this spring as they were able to move out of the irrigated district on February first on to the desert.

Louis G. Galland.

Buckeye

The southern part of Arizona is a flower garden at this time (March 26) and the northern part looks very promising. We have had an extra good spring, so far as weather and feed are concerned, much better than in previous years.

Our winter losses were normal, about 7 per cent that is. The lamb crop is ten per cent short of that for 1934.

Eighteen cents has been paid re-

cently for wool shrinking 60 per cent.

We have more coyotes and they are more troublesome.

T. J. Hudspeth.

Mesa

The desert range is excellent, much better than last year; in fact, spring feed is the best in several years.

Our lamb crop was smaller than that of last year in proportion to the number of ewes bred. This year the ewe bands were about 5 per cent short of those of a year ago.

Seventeen cents has been paid to the man who operates the shearing plant, for which he furnishes everything.

Some sales of wool have been made at 16 to 19 cents, and 10 cents has been advanced on consignments.

We have had rising costs of operation during the last two years.

Larkin Fitch.

NEW MEXICO

Dry weather characterized the month, with some warm temperatures late in the month to still further accentuate the drouthy condition. Farm work is well advanced, but grass has made but little advancement for the want of moisture, though grass is better in the western portion. Livestock are mostly quite thin because of the prolonged lack of forage. It has not been a favorable season for lambs. Dust storms covered the northeastern portion at times.

Cliff

Conditions here have been much better this March than they were last and it looks as if we would have good feed on the spring ranges.

I do not know about other sheepmen, but I have saved about a 90 per cent lamb crop this year as compared with 60 per cent in 1934.

J. M. Dickerson.

Quay

It has been very windy during March and we have had little moisture; it is just about as it was a year ago only there is less feed on the range. Grass, however, has started earlier than usual on the spring range.

We did not breed so many ewes for lambing this spring, about 10 per cent below that of the previous season, but our lambing percentage has been much better.

Shearers have received 10 cents a head without board.

Coyotes are not so numerous, due to poisoning and trapping.

It is costing us more now than two years ago to raise wool and lambs.

H. V. Dibble.

Hope

The weather has been somewhat colder than usual and feed conditions (March 7) are very poor; in fact, range feed is shorter than ever known before. It is so dry that we fear the roots of the grass are dead. A lot of cake is being fed at present, but there is never much hay sold in the stack here.

I would say that there is a 25 per cent reduction in the number of ewes to lamb this season in comparison with last. Very few ewe lambs were kept over last fall on account of their poor condition. All of the larger flock owners have nothing over four years of age in their bands.

I cannot see much difference in the number of coyotes to that of a year ago.

J. H. Clements, Jr.

Clovis

Conditions are very poor (March 10), both in regard to the weather and the feed. It has been necessary to feed more of our sheep than in previous years. I think baled hay is quoted at \$20 a ton.

Not so many ewes were bred this season as last and a smaller number of ewe lambs were retained last fall.

Mrs. J. P. Carr.

COLORADO

Temperatures have been rather favorable as a rule, but rains and snows were decidedly deficient over the eastern portion, where winds and dust storms were detrimental to spring vegetation. Winter grains and ranges have had ample snow covering in most western counties, and there has been a little forage in spots; but ranges and pastures are poor in the east, especially the southeastern portion. Some cactus is being fed for want of better roughage. Livestock are good in western counties, but only fair to poor in the east.

Center

Conditions are not very good on the range at this time (March 24), but the prospects are fair for spring range feed. The death loss in range ewes during the winter is estimated at around 10 per cent.

The number of ewes to lamb this season is smaller by about 10 per cent when compared with that of last year; in early lambing, the lambs saved are about in the same proportion as for 1934.

There haven't been any transactions in 1935 wool yet, but a 1934 clip was recently sold at 17 cents a pound.

Coyotes are more plentiful than in previous years, as no one is hunting them.

There has not been much chance to reduce costs of production this year. While labor charges are lower, feeds are a great deal higher.

W. F. Bowers.

Ft. Collins

It is very dry here (March 25), and the grass is getting short on the range. In 1933 March was dry, but there was more winter grass; 1934 was similar to the present year. We will have to get lots of rain or snow in April if we are to have any grass on the spring range.

There has just been a normal loss in ewes this winter, as we have had no storms. The number of ewes to

lamb, however, is about 15 per cent short of last year. Lambing has not commenced here yet.

Machine shearers are being paid 10 cents with board; blade men are getting 10 cents also.

There have been no transactions in 1935 wools so far.

Last year the cost of production increased due to the drouth and the necessity of buying hay and extra pasture to winter on.

Coyotes are about the same; they have never been bad here.

R. A. Brackenbury.

Montrose

Feed is poor here, weather warm and dry, March 7. February this year was similar to that of last year, and drier than the average for the previous three-year period. On our (east) desert a larger number of sheep have had to be fed this winter; alfalfa hay in the stack is costing \$10 a ton on the average.

Flocks are older although an attempt has been made to correct this for years. I think the number of ewes bred to lamb this season is about 5 per cent under that for last year.

Coyotes are less numerous than they were a year ago, but equally destructive. Conditions on the ranges make looser herding at all times necessary, which gives coyotes the opportunity to do great damage.

Blue Mesa Sheep Co.

UTAH

Temperatures were close to normal on the average, with some moderately cold spells holding back grass to a certain extent; moisture was about normal, as a rule however, giving vegetation enough moisture to induce a sturdy showing of all forage plants. While this new forage is not yet available in large quantities, livestock have fared very well as no heavy feeding was necessary. Range stuff is still largely in poor or fair condition, but livestock on feed has done well. Winter wheat fields are luxuriant generally.

NEVADA

More or less cool or cold weather occurred and growing conditions are quite backward, with scanty precipitation as a rule in the lower country. Warm spells of weather, however, promoted the growth of early vegetation in places farther south, where there has been a little forage. Cattle are on the range in places, and doing fairly well. Unfavorable weather delayed sheep shearing, and livestock are being fed yet in several sections. Sheep are moving northward toward spring ranges.

Simpson

It has been very cold and windy all this month, and feed is very backward, about three weeks behind last year, I would say. However, if the weather stays warm, feed on the spring range should be very good as the ground is wet.

In lambing done so far, I think the yield has been about 10 per cent shorter than last year, although about the same number of ewes were bred. Winter losses were exceptionally low, only about 3 per cent.

With no government trappers at work here, coyotes are more troublesome than in previous years.

W. L. Blackwell.

Jiggs

Since the first of November we have had good storms in this section and it looks as if we are going to have a better year as far as feed and water go, but we must have markets or else we are gone anyway.

February was a rather unsettled month with some moisture, but it did not come up to last year or the year before. Practically all the snow disappeared in the flats and that sent the sheep back to the hills that were overgrazed last fall. The feed has greened up some (March 7), but not enough to help much. The wool will be better this year for one good thing. About the same number of ewes were bred last fall and just about the same number of ewe lambs were held over to replace

the old ones that were sold. Ages run from two to fives, and are better in all flocks than for the last four years.

There has been some feeding, mostly by those that had hay on hand. Hay has been selling at from \$7 to \$10 in the stack.

Coyotes are still at their work and I believe there are a few more of them. There has been quite a bit of private trapping around here, but it has not met with much success. During the winter months the trappers tried hard to catch them, but the coyotes pretty much minded their own business. There are quite a lot of crippled coyotes around here—those caught in traps have escaped—and one of them does more damage than five well ones.

I have been following sheep for the past 25 years and still adhere to the advice of the old saying, "never give up." It has been most trying these last four or five years, but still we have had enough to eat and beds to sleep on. Most of the sheepmen here are still encouraged, hoping that times will be better, especially in connection with the wool market. Prices are so very uncertain that we do not know how to plan to make things work out. There's been no profit in sheep the last three or four years, but the banks have been very broadminded. Whether or not the sheepmen can hold on much longer, however, is a question.

John Peters.

CALIFORNIA

Unusually cool weather prevailed this month, preventing a luxuriant growth of vegetation, as a rule. Precipitation was mostly light or negligible, thus further preventing the production of the usual amount of spring forage. In most sections, ranges are in satisfactory condition, however, for the present. The first alfalfa cutting was finished in the San Joaquin Valley. Snows fell in the lower foothills at times, hence no mountain pasturage is being utilized yet over the northern and middle portions. Some suffering was reported among lambs.

Laytonville

March has been a cold and wet month; so far (the 25th) we have had rain or hail or snow or all of them 16 days this month. It is much colder and wetter than at this time last year, but about the same as it was two years ago, which was colder and wetter than normal. Spring feed will be good. There is a splendid setting of grass roots and plenty of water to date.

The yield of lambs was somewhat less than in the previous year, but still it was good. Our winter losses have been less than usual.

Machine shearers have been paid 13½ cents with board, but the shearer furnishes the equipment. Blade men have been getting 8 to 10 cents.

There has been no movement in wool as yet.

We feel that the federal-state system operating in the control of predatory animals has saved our section of the country from coyotes.

Costs of production have been lowered about a third in the last two years.

Frank C. Clarke.

Beverly Hills

We have excellent feed conditions, the best, in fact, since the winter of 1916-17. Ten dollars is the price of alfalfa hay, but none of the sheep are being fed.

Our ewe flocks are older on the average than they were several years ago. We kept about the usual number of ewe lambs last year for replacements, and about the same number of ewes were bred as in the previous year.

Coyotes are numerous, as no one is trapping.

Robert L. Brooks.

OREGON

Nearly every week was too cold for the best growth of spring grasses and other forage, and rains and snows were such as to retard farm work in the western portion; but soil moisture continues deficient over

(Continued to page 35)

Special Drive to Increase the Demand for Lamb

THE program to build up the demand for lamb, started last month by the Colorado-Nebraska Lamb Feeders Association, is expanding. At Denver, the feeders have been joined by the Denver Union Stockyards and the commission men in an intensive effort to sell more lamb in that district by proclaiming its merits to consumers through newspaper and other publicity. The reasons set forth in their advertising why lamb should form a larger part of the consumer's food purchases today are: (1) It is a healthful food; (2) it is cheaper than a year ago, while most foods are higher; and (3) eating more lamb is a patriotic duty, helping an industry that means much to the West, — Colorado and adjoining states in particular. Reward for their efforts has come in rising sales, a check-up showing that the volume of lamb sold in the first week of promotional effort about doubled that of the preceding period of the same length.

The Meat Board Program

A national program is being conducted by the National Live Stock and Meat Board on the special fund provided by the feeders' organization. The Board's efforts are centered largely around a very attractive lamb recipe book prepared especially for the feeders. It is, of course, the distribution of this collection of recipes to housewives upon which the hope for increased de-



PLANKED LAMB CHOPS—ONE OF THE COVER PICTURES OF NEW LAMB RECIPE BOOK

A very nice way to serve English lamb chops is that pictured above. The chops are broiled, then placed on individual planks and decorated for serving.

English chops are cut from the double loin, and are boned and rolled. Have them cut $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches thick. Place them on the center of the broiling rack in a thoroughly preheated broiling oven. Have the oven regulator set as high as possible; place the rack 3 inches below the flame or heating element. Broil with the oven door open. When the chops are nicely browned on one side, season and turn. When the second side is browned the chops will be done. It requires 25 to 30 minutes to broil chops $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches thick.

Transfer the chops to individual wooden planks. Place cooked brussel sprouts on the plank with the chops and pipe a border of mashed potatoes around the edge. This is done by forcing the mashed potatoes through a pastry tube. Brush the mashed potato border with egg yolk and place the plank back in the oven or under the broiler flame long enough to slightly brown the potatoes. This requires only a few minutes. Serve immediately.

In using new individual planks, they must be prepared before the food is placed on them for the first time. The treatment is very simple. Rub them well with fat, place in a slow oven, about 300 degrees F., and leave until the fat has completely penetrated the wood. This requires about one hour; it is what is known as "seasoning." Then the planks are ready for use as described above.

mand is based. Half a million of them have been published and they are going out to consumers through every avenue available to the Board, —via radio and newspaper requests, distribution at special lectures and cooking and cutting demonstrations.

The receipt of this recipe book certainly should induce purchases of lamb, for it has all the allure that good food dressed up in its best can have. "Delicious Lamb Dishes," as the recipe book is called, is printed in rotogravure, and includes besides the numerous recipes, a setting forth of plain facts about lamb cookery, hints to the hostess on lamb, and model menus featuring lamb—altogether it is a very excellent brief for lamb.

The Board's special lamb program also includes:

(1) Cooking schools, with "sales talks" on the recipe book and preparation of lamb dishes. Housewives are also told how to select lamb in the market, and how they can use all cuts of lamb. The attendance at these lectures during the next few weeks is estimated at 205,000.

(2) Newspaper lamb campaigns, through which several thousand copies of the recipe book are being distributed. Two such campaigns have been conducted, one with the Philadelphia Inquirer and the other with the Pittsburgh Sun Telegraph.

(3) Special lamb clip sheets and pictures of lamb dishes have been sent to 6,200 newspapers. Also 13 metropolitan dailies, with a circulation of 1,644,677, in 43 of the largest cities, have already used a special illustrated feature story on lamb.

(4) Special attention is given to lamb in the regular cutting and cooking demonstrations conducted by the Board.

Armour's Work

Armour and Company has also recently announced a special selling campaign for lamb and their announcement indicates that the Institute of American Meat Packers will also take up the cudgel for this commodity.

Armour's statement reads:

Most every sheepman is acquainted with the U. S. Government report of January

1, 1935, which stated our national lamb situation. From a practical standpoint there are as many lambs to sell this year as last and yet the purchasing power of the average consumer has not improved very much. While other meat prices have gone up considerably because of the marked reduction in supply, the average selling price of carcass lamb has only increased about 10 per cent. The market on lamb by-products which includes wool is lower. To improve the onfoot price we must stimulate consumption and the demand for lamb

so that the carcass in itself will sell at a higher level. If the carcass price can be raised then some improvement can be expected in the live price.

Armour and Company has announced a lamb sales campaign to all of its branch houses and car route territories. Salesmen are making special effort to improve our selling on the large number of lambs coming to market. Meat display case streamers which feature lamb have been furnished the dealers by the thousands. Large posters displayed in every Armour plant and branch house convey a lamb selling story to wholesaler and retailer. * * *

On March 28 representatives of Armour and Company attended a meeting of the Institute of American Meat Packers at which time similar plans were discussed to promote the sale of lambs. These plans of the Institute include radio advertising, banners and window streamers for the retail meat dealers. The expense of this program is being borne by Armour and Company, other packers and sheepmen.

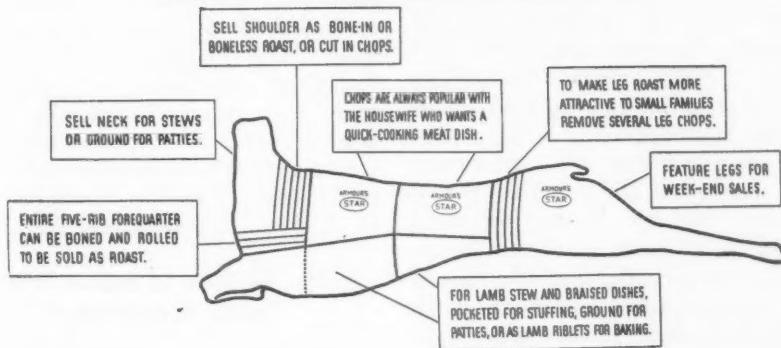
We know that you are interested in our efforts to improve the present lamb situation. We are hoping that a program of this kind will reflect in higher prices paid to producers.

The poster displayed by the Armour Company in its plants and branch houses is reproduced; the streamers for use in meat cases are made up in a series of six, bearing the following messages: Please Your Family with Leg of Lamb—Choice, Tender, Juicy; For Economy . . . For Flavor: Shoulder Lamb Chops—Serve them broiled tonight; For a Delicious Economy Meal: Breast of Lamb—Stuff, stew or braise with vegetables; Delicious . . . And it Costs Less, Too: Boneless Lamb Roast—All meat, no waste; A Tasty, Quickly Prepared Dish: Lamb Patties—Wrapped with Armour's Bacon; A Favorite Everywhere: Lamb Chops—Rich in food value, but not fattening.

It is, of course, too early to have the results of this lamb promotional work; but backed by an entire industry, certainly benefits of real proportions may be expected.

Armour's Poster to Stimulate Lamb Sales

TO PLEASE YOUR CUSTOMERS *Sell more* **LAMB**



TELL YOUR CUSTOMERS THESE FACTS TO *Increase Lamb Sales*

- 1 Lamb cuts represent the best values in quality fresh meats today.
- 2 Lamb is nutritious, appetizing, easily digested.
- 3 Lamb is non-fattening . . . popular with women who want to keep slender.

Ask Us
HOW TO PRICE
LAMB CUTS
FOR
Best Results
ARMOUR AND COMPANY

Washington Activities of the Wool Marketing Committee

This is a partial report of the work done up to the present time by the Wool Marketing Committee of the National Wool Growers Association, whose appointment was provided for by resolution adopted at the annual convention of the association on January 31. The report is made by Mr. J. B. Wilson of Wyoming, who is acting chairman of the committee.

THE Wool Marketing Committee of the National Wool Growers Association spent sometime in Washington during the past month trying to arrange for loans on wool. This followed the suggestion made at the wool growers' national convention in January that loans should be made on wool similar to the loans made on cotton and corn. Loans on those commodities were made by the Commodity Credit Corporation and your committee when it came to Washington took up with the officials of the Commodity Credit Corporation the matter of making loans on wool. We did not ask for loans in excess of the market value of the wool. The committee was advised by representatives of the Commodity Credit Corporation that it was against the policy of that corporation to make loans on any commodity which was not covered by a marketing agreement or a production control program. Your committee suggested that wool growers were desirous of entering into a marketing agreement, but that it would take several months to work out such agreement and have it approved and stated that we believed that the Commodity Credit Corporation could provide for production control by writing into the loan agreement a clause providing for production control. The representatives of the Commodity Credit Corporation said that this could not be done.

Your committee had conferences with officials of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, the Farm Credit Administration, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, and the Commodity Credit Corporation, but up to the time this is written

no plan has been developed, although your committee is still working.

Knowing that a marketing agreement was necessary your committee started to work out the form of a marketing agreement under the A.A.A., and finally worked out the first draft of a proposed wool marketing agreement. This proposed marketing agreement provided for a control committee consisting of five growers to be selected so that all parts of the wool producing territory would have representation, two wool dealers, one wool puller and one wool manufacturer. By definition any manufacturer who bought wool direct from the growers would be under the same restrictions as a dealer. The control committee would, after an examination of all the statistics regarding stock, probable consumption, etc., determine that portion of the clip that would be used, and for it the producers would be paid the minimum price. The surplus, if any, would be turned over to the control committee to be handled by them as they ordered.

To explain this, if the control committee decided that only 90 per cent of the domestic clip would be used they would declare that 10 per cent of the clip was a surplus. Every grower in the country would be paid the minimum price for the 90 per cent of the clip, but would be compelled to turn over 100 per cent of the clip, the surplus of 10 per cent being turned over to the control committee, which committee would carry the wool, or could export it and when sold, the amount it brought, less charges, would be paid to the grower. Your committee does not consider that there is any

danger of an overproduction of wool in this country in normal times and we do not believe that it would be necessary to exercise production control, so that we do not feel that the growers need become excited about the surplus control feature.

The control committee would from time to time fix minimum prices to be paid to producers. It is expected that the control committee would fix wool prices on importing parity, because that is all the grower can hope to get. This would not be artificial price fixing because every grower in this country is entitled to get importing parity for his wool.

In order to make a marketing agreement effective it must, under the present law, be approved both by a majority of the dealers and a majority of the growers, so as soon as we had drafted the proposed agreement it was submitted to the dealers and they were asked to cooperate with the growers' committee in working out a proper marketing agreement. The correspondence between the growers' committee and the dealers' representatives follows:

Letter Written to Boston Wool Trade Association

A committee representing the wool growers of the West are meeting with representatives of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration in trying to work out a marketing agreement covering wool. A draft of this agreement will probably be ready on Tuesday, March 5, and inasmuch as your members will be parties to any marketing agreement and interested therein, we are going to ask you to appoint a committee to meet with the growers' committee and representatives of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration on Tuesday, March 5, to see if we can agree upon the provisions of a marketing agreement.

If we are unable to agree upon a marketing agreement, it will probably be necessary to pass some special legislation, possibly making wool a basic commodity. I am in hopes that the matter can be worked out with a marketing agreement rather than by

special legislation. Please consider this a request for cooperation from the members of your organization with the committee of wool growers in trying to work out a solution of our problems.

The meetings of the committee will be held in the office of Mr. E. S. Haskell, in the Department of Agriculture's South Building, Second floor.

Telegram Received from Boston Wool Trade Association

Offices closed here Saturday. Did not receive your letter until this morning. This market much more active. Sales last week over ten million pounds for approved houses. Prospects for fall business and future government contracts very good. Think if left alone wool situation will take care of itself. Under circumstances feel sure sentiment of our trade is opposed to entering into any marketing agreement. Therefore see no need for committee to come to Washington at this time.

Letter Received from Boston Wool Trade Association

We have made a careful study of the proposed marketing agreement for wool and mohair which you presented to Mr. Jones last Saturday.

We are mindful of the desire and necessity of the growers to obtain the highest possible prices for their wool and mohair, and in this we heartily concur. The good faith of the wool trade in this respect is evidenced by the action during the past year of the approved consignees in the Farm Credit Administration Wool Plan in using their own money and their own credit in an attempt to support the wool market. The results have been disappointing, but there is no doubt but that this action of the approved houses, costly as it was to them, was of great benefit to the growers, as it served as a cushion to prevent a more rapid and serious decline in prices.

It has been clearly demonstrated that the fixing of prices of agricultural commodities has been unsuccessful, and has not been conducive to the orderly marketing into consumption of these commodities, which is so essential to the position of annually recurring crops. The operation of the agreement which you propose would, in our opinion, not only fail to be of benefit to the growers but would have an adverse effect on their ability to dispose of their wool, and we therefore cannot concur in the approval of it.

In our opinion, the regulatory and artificial price fixing of such a marketing agreement would definitely tend to discourage and restrict capital investment in wool, a factor most necessary to a strong wool market.

We therefore question whether your committee, after giving this phase of the question serious thought, would care to assume

the responsibility for furthering any plan which would in any way tend to narrow the growers' cash market.

We think you will agree that the greatest factor in restoring wool to its proper basis is increased consumption. This can be accomplished by bringing to the attention of the people of the United States the desirability of wool for all purposes for which it is useful. If this result is accomplished we believe the problem is solved. As you doubtless know, the wool trade instigated plans for promoting the use of wool, and has enlisted and secured the cooperation of both manufacturers and growers in this movement. The wool trade readily raised more than its share of the funds to carry on this promotional campaign, and stands ready to continue its support.

Further, in spite of the imminence of the new clip and the presence of an abnormal carry over, the industry is enjoying a very satisfactory volume of business, at prices in general as high as present importing parity permits and purchases of new clip wools are being made in the West at prices which in no way indicate a demoralized market condition.

The statistical position of wool in its relation to the future presents a strong and sound picture if the natural laws of supply and demand are undisturbed. We believe that the inauguration of a marketing agreement is not only unnecessary but would be most detrimental to the actual confidence which exists.

Reply to Letter from Boston Wool Trade Association

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 12, written following my furnishing to Mr. Jones, on March 9, a tentative draft of a proposed wool marketing agreement. I must assume that both you and probably others of the trade have examined these rough proposals and considered them from the standpoint of the growers, and, of course, naturally and properly, from the standpoint of the dealer. I take it from your letter that you are unwilling to be a party to any form of a marketing agreement or even to discuss such proposed agreement with growers' representatives.

We note what you say about the good faith of the wool trade being evidenced during the past year by using their own money and their own credit to support the wool market. We had supposed that the wool held on consignment from the growers was used more to cushion the market than the wool owned by the dealers. Expressing it another way, the dealers sold a much larger proportion of the wools they owned than they sold of the wools on consignment.

We note what you say about artificial price-fixing. You are assuming that the control committee provided for in the proposed marketing agreement would fix artificial prices. We believe that this is an un-

warranted assumption, because, in our opinion this committee would attempt to fix prices on practical importing parity, which certainly could not be called artificial price fixing.

It seems quite apparent, from your letter and telegram, that you believe you are in a better position to judge what is best for the grower than is the grower himself. To this opinion we must respectfully dissent. In our opinion, a marketing agreement such as proposed would be of material benefit to the wool growers, and we can not escape the conclusion that the dealers, in refusing to cooperate, are thinking exclusively of their own interests, without giving any thought to the welfare of the wool growers of this country.

We, of course, appreciate the generous service which the trade is offering to render in connection with the wool promotion campaign. We hope, however, that you do not consider that this in any way meets the necessities of the occasion as viewed by the growers. We also feel that, in addition to your efforts towards wool promotion, in order to increase the consumption of wool, your associates should take an active interest in cooperating with the growers to secure the prompt enactment of truth-in-fabric legislation, which legislation would certainly increase the consumption of wool.

We are naturally pleased to have your report of the excellent condition and prospects in the wool market. While you state the present prices are on the basis of importing parity, you do not offer any certain way by which the grower may be sure that prices will continue on importing parity.

As you have probably been advised, the growers' committee have been attempting to secure loans on wool from the Commodity Credit Corporation. In this we have had neither your assistance nor cooperation. We are naturally very much disappointed at your refusal to cooperate with the growers' committee in trying to work out something for the benefit of the wool growers of this country in whose welfare you profess to be so much interested, and we feel that the wool growers, when they are apprised of the facts, will share our committee's disappointment.

This correspondence is self-explanatory. It would seem to be the intention of the dealers to prevent the setting up of a marketing agreement for wool.

Further work with government officials is contemplated in an endeavor to secure some action that will react to the benefit of wool growers during the coming marketing period.

The Need for Regulation of the Use of Public Driveways

PROBABLY nothing has ever occurred in the history of the livestock business in the range country that has resulted in such widespread interest and discussion among stockmen as the passage of the Taylor Grazing Act. There are, of course, a great many conflicting ideas as to how this act should function, as many almost as there are men to discuss them. In view of this fact, it will, in my opinion, be a difficult matter indeed to agree on any plan of general application which will be satisfactory to all stockmen.

But no matter how it is finally decided to allot this public domain, there are certain existing evils (many of them self-imposed) which must be corrected—if range livestock outfits ever expect to operate without red ink—before any plan will work out in a satisfactory manner. These "evils" relate principally to the movement of stock over trails and range unnecessarily; to the waiting around public pens for an opportunity to get in and shear, thereby causing further damage to the range; to improper attention and care of the flocks during breeding season; to the use of inferior rams and the too-frequent changing from one breed of rams to another; and to the handling of more stock than feed conditions justify.

After having 30 years of practical experience on the range, handling both cattle and sheep, I am familiar enough with these conditions, to make certain suggestions which, in my opinion, are logical and will correct most of them.

In the first place, in all justness and fairness to the stockmen, a herd

law must be enacted which will compel all stockmen to hold their stock under control at all times, either with herdsmen or with fences, and this law must be accompanied with a penalty so severe that in the event of a violation resulting in trespass, the injured party may collect damages from the offender.

Secondly, public trail privileges are much abused by all rangemen. These trails were established for the specific purpose of moving sheep and cattle to summer ranges and to return them in the fall to their winter ranges; also, for bringing stock to the railroad for shipment. They should be rigidly policed by authorized federal trail supervisors to prevent stock loitering on trails, causing congestion and consuming feed which has been set aside for trail purposes only. No stock should be allowed on trails without a permit issued by the trail supervisor, and a permit should not be issued for any bunch of stock until that stock has been carefully inspected as to health by an inspector of the Bureau of Animal Industry.

It also seems to me that no stock should be permitted on the trails to proceed to summer ranges unless the owner has satisfied the trail supervisor that he has sufficient summer range to provide feed for his stock for at least 60 days. This will eliminate the movement of stock over trails when the grower has only sufficient summer feed for a week or ten days on the mountain and uses such as a mere excuse to enter on trails, and put in most of the summer months going and coming on the trails and incidentally consuming the trail feed while conserving his own.

Also, no stock should be permitted on trails for shipment, except that which is actually to be loaded on the cars. This will pre-

vent large numbers of ewes and lambs from trailing to the railroads where the lambs are sorted out and loaded on the cars and the ewe herds then returned over the trails to their home ranges, which further destroys feed, unnecessarily.

For the maintenance and proper policing of the trails, a fee might be charged the stockmen. The fund thus raised could be used for properly marking trails to assure stockmen protection on the trail, to provide proper watering places and corrals at intervals for such emergencies as the mixing of bands, and to compel all trail herds to keep moving while on the trails.

The third evil to be corrected is the operation of public shearing pens and dipping vats. Years ago there was a good reason for the use of such pens, but that is now past history. In the days when roads were bad and we had no trucks, there was a great saving made in driving the sheep to the railroad with the wool on their backs, shearing them, and loading the wool into the cars. But today that condition does not exist. By allowing the operation of public shearing pens, the concentration of large numbers of sheep, often from 50 to 100,000 head, is permitted, and so great a number trailing in and out over the same trail can result only in the great destruction of range feed. There is also the danger of spreading disease in the public shearing pens. For these reasons the public shearing pens and also the public dipping vats should be abolished.

It is quite possible to go on and on elaborating and pointing out these and other leaks which are so generally prevalent, and so costly—but at the same time so easily corrected. If the rangemen could only see the benefits and dismiss for all time the old range customs, which in too many cases are firmly entrenched in their minds and operations; in fact, they must do this if they expect to carry on, meet tough competition, and be at all successful.

Roy B. Mintv.
Casper, Wyo.

New Mexico Stockmen in Convention

THE New Mexico Wool Growers Association and the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association met in joint convention at Roswell, New Mexico, on March 26, 1935. There was a large attendance of both sheep and cattle men and it was a very successful meeting.

Mr. Floyd W. Lee, president of the New Mexico Wool Growers Association presided over the joint session.

The Governor of New Mexico, Hon. Clyde Tingley, was guest of honor, addressing the group on the worth of the industry to the state, and urging the stockmen to "carry on" with a vigorous program of improvement in the livestock industry.

Other prominent men on the program were Colonel E. N. Wentworth of Armour & Company, Chicago; F. E. Mollin, secretary, American National Livestock Association; Harry Petrie, chief of the cattle and sheep purchasing section of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration; Stanley Young, chief, Division of Game Management of the Bureau of Biological Survey, and D. A. Shoemaker, regional forester. The subjects discussed by each of these were devoted to the upbuilding of the livestock industry and were very interesting.

Judge C. M. Botts of Albuquerque presented the New Mexico plan, with rules and regulations, for the administration of the Taylor Grazing Act in New Mexico, which proposal received the unanimous support of both the Wool Growers Association and the Cattle Growers Association. This plan, together with the rules and regulations, had previously been approved by the State Land Commissioner, State Fish

and Game Department, State Game Protection Association, University of New Mexico, Southwestern Conservation League, and New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic



FLOYD W. LEE
President of the New Mexico Wool Growers Association

Arts. Judge Botts is now in Washington to present this plan to Secretary Ickes for his endorsement.

A feature of the afternoon session was the very entertaining talk made by G. T. Howell, member of the newly organized Soil Erosion Department.

The joint meeting adopted resolutions:

Recommending an appropriation by the government of one million dollars for the fiscal year 1936 and annually thereafter, to be used by the Bureau of Biological Survey, in predatory animal and rodent control projects.

Recommending that the question of amendments to the Taylor Grazing Act, which are now pending before Congress, be referred to the executive bodies of the two state livestock associations, with necessary study and appropriate action thereon.

Recommending that the proposal for administration of the Taylor Grazing Act be approved by the Secretary of the Interior and the same become the rules and regulations of the Department for administration of the Act.

Protesting the policy of the Forest Service, in taking the grazing permits from long-time holders and giving to new permittees, without due consideration of the facts, or without regard for the permittee's record.

A full round of entertainment was furnished the visiting cattlemen and sheepmen by the City of Roswell. The day was started off with a band concert by the Roswell school band, a delicious barbecue at noon, a tea for the ladies in the afternoon, and full dress parade by the cadets of the New Mexico Military Institute, and a dance in the evening at the Roswell Country Club.

The New Mexico Wool Growers Association wound up their two-day session at Roswell on March 26 and 27 by the re-election of Floyd W. Lee, San Mateo, president, Jose Ortiz y Pino of Galisteo, vice president, and Isabel Benson, Albuquerque, secretary, and the adoption of the following resolutions:

Opposing extension of the Indian reservations by allocation of more public domain for the purpose.

Further opposing purchase by the government of more private lands adjoining reservations, for the purpose of extending the reservations.

Opposing purchase of private lands outside of forest reserves for the purpose of extending the reserves.

Favoring purchase by the government of one hundred million pounds of domestic wool from growers of the United States for use by the Army and Navy, to aid in lowering the surplus of wools.

The association realized the necessity of increasing the consumption and demand for lamb and that a great emergency existed, so had one thousand dollars sent by the New Mexico Sheep Sanitary Board to the Colorado-Nebraska Lamb Feeders Association to be used immediately for the advertising of lamb. The New Mexico Association has previously contributed one thousand dollars to the National Wool Growers Association for the advertising of lamb and they hope to raise six thousand dollars this coming year to carry on this work.

Isabel Benson, Secretary.

Federal Firearms Legislation

NO fewer than twelve anti-firearms bills were introduced during the session of the 73rd Congress; seven bills in the Senate and five in the House. The first bill, being known as Senate Bill No. 2258, was introduced by Senators Copeland of New York, Vandenburg of Michigan, and Murphy of Iowa—the so-called Racketeering Sub-Committee of the Senate Commerce Committee. This bill was so impossible in its demands that due to this fact, mainly, new bills, one after the other were presented. Finally after a long story of happenings in which Mr. Joseph B. Keenan, special assistant to the attorney general, reportedly proved himself to be no friend of those of us who have use for firearms for work or sport, H. R. 9066 was drafted and referred to the House Ways and Means Committee. The whole story is too long to repeat here, in fact it is all history and may be had in quite some detail from the July, 1934, issue of the American Rifleman magazine. The upshot was that the gentlemen who appeared before the very courteous members of the House Ways and Means Committee, in defense of the rights of citizens to bear arms for work or sport, impressed this committee with the fact that all is not gold that glitters.

Finally after a great deal of investigation and hard work, the House Ways and Means Committee acted upon the suggestion of the representatives of the National Rifle Association, and struck from H. B. 9066 the mention of all small arms except machine guns and sawed-off shot-guns. Thereupon the House Ways and Means Committee reported an entirely new bill, H. R.

9741. This bill left untouched revolvers, pistols, regular rifles and shotguns, but did cover machine guns and as eventually passed by Congress, all shotguns or rifles with barrels of less than eighteen inches in length. This measure became a law and is being enforced by the Internal Revenue Collector of each district.

Upon the suggestion of Senator Royal S. Copeland of New York the officers of the National Rifle Association wrote such a bill as the association felt would put a sufficient curb on criminal traffic in small arms, and yet at the same time would not in any way rob the law-abiding citizen of his right to own and use firearms in work or sport as he saw fit. This bill is now before the present session of the National Congress and is being sponsored by Senators Copeland, Murphy and Vandenburg. This bill known as Senate Bill No 3 is the bill stockmen, sportsmen and all law-abiding citizens should support. Every member of the wool growers' association, along with all other sheepmen and cattlemen, should write their representatives in Congress and urge the passage of Senate Bill No. 3. Your prompt action and support are necessary for the reason that even yet, after the experience of the last session, Mr. Keenan still insists on his anti-firearms ideas becoming law. We in the West, especially, want none of Mr. Keenan's ideas imposed upon us, and if we will actively support Senator Copeland and his committee members we can avoid such a catastrophe.

And one final word as to Senator Copeland. Some of you may recall that the Senator, not so long ago, was a most rabid anti-firearms fanatic; in fact at that time almost on a plane with Mr. Keenan. However, Senator Copeland has proved himself a fine red-blooded American of the highest type. During

the hearings on the different bills introduced before the 73rd Congress, he gave a most open ear. As a result he entirely changed his attitude. We owe to Senator Copeland an unlimited vote of thanks, and I am quite sure that the Senator would appreciate it greatly if you should take the time to write him your word of appreciation.

Some years ago around 70 per cent of our population lived on the land while only around 30 per cent existed in towns and cities. During that hey-day of the life of this nation, anti-firearms bills would have been laughed to scorn. However, today this condition is reversed. Now some 70 per cent of our people swelter and struggle in towns and cities; the remaining 30 per cent live on the land. It is because of this condition of congestion that crime has increased, and to the never-thinking, thoughtless mind of the average city, radio-stunned dweller, the idea of doing away with guns to banish crime, seems most logical. Right now it would appear that through the fine efforts of Senator Copeland and his committee, and the officers of the National Rifle Association and other sportsmen's organizations, the day when Congress will even consider unsound firearms suggestions is about done. We can not object to a sane law covering the manufacture and sale of machine guns, and none of us have any use for a sawed-off shotgun. Apparently the fiber of our citizenry has weakened to the point where "another law must be passed" in an effort to brace the national backbone. Senate Bill No. 3 apparently is what we can consider safe. Certainly the gentlemen who wrote it had you and me in mind all the time, and effectively to check erroneous ideas, let us back the men who have fought this battle for us, and do what we can, individually, to insure the passage of Senate Bill No. 3. Your Senator will be glad to send you a copy of the bill.

Allyn H. Tedmon,
Littleton, Colo.

The Wildlife Problems of the National Forests

THE report of the Chief Forester for the year 1934 contains the following discussion of the conflict between wildlife and domestic animals on the national forests:

Public interest is being increasingly manifested in national-forest wildlife problems. Wildlife is also attracting increased attention as an economic local resource capable of yielding substantial direct and indirect cash returns to isolated settlers, licensed guides, and business enterprises.

There are fully 60,000 miles of fishing streams in the national forests, and many thousand miles more of these streams beyond the forest boundaries. There are also thousands of natural lakes and artificial bodies of water stocked with fish or suitable for fish production. Still more important is the use of the national forests as summer ranges for herbivorous game species.

The major problem with respect to game has to do with adequate winter feed. At least 60 per cent of the big-game winter ranges lie outside the forest boundaries, on the public domain and private lands. Many forests have practically no winter ranges. Approximately 12,000,000 acres of the public domain are actual or potential winter game range. Strategic winter ranges within the national forests are being given special consideration as the need arises or is anticipated in given localities. The national-forest summer ranges afford room for several times the present number of big-game animals without curtailment of the domestic livestock. Game must be studied in relation to its year-long requirements and by localities, because each locality presents its own problem.

Domestic stock and wildlife conflicts have been emphasized by individuals and groups especially interested in recreational and game uses of the forests. So far agitation has been directed wholly at sheep grazing. Only 20 per cent of the national-forest areas, large portions of which are at high altitudes above the principal range of deer and elk, is used by sheep. Sheep ranges on the national forests are in full administrative control and generally in good condition, despite reports to the contrary. Forty-two per cent of the national-forest area is used by cattle, which occupy more of the game range; 38 per cent of the national-forest area, much of it excellent game country, furnishing food and protective cover, is not used by either cattle or sheep. Game also occupies large areas in common with domestic stock. Large areas are in state and federal game refuges—25,245,600 acres. Other strategic areas, totaling 3,729,600 acres, are especially segregated and protected in the interests of wildlife. The objective in

range use is balanced conservation and use of all the resources involved, in the best public interest. Conditions and trends must be carefully and properly appraised. Through correlation and the meeting of minds, it should be possible to develop intelligent and acceptable programs of administration which will accord wildlife its proper place in forest use.

Since 1921 (the first year in which fairly trustworthy data were obtained) the estimates indicate that the number of antelope has increased 504 per cent, black and brown bear 26 per cent, deer 107 per cent, elk 119 per cent, moose 121 per cent, and mountain goats 102 per cent; but grizzly bears show a decrease of 7 per cent, and mountain sheep of 12 per cent.

Economic Survey of Forest Grazing Considered

F. A. SILCOX, Chief of the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, made the following statement on March 13 on matters pertaining to the issuance of grazing permits on the national forests for the year 1935. The announcement followed conferences with representatives of the American National Livestock Association and the National Wool Growers Association, led by their two respective secretaries, F. E. Mollin of Denver and F. R. Marshall of Salt Lake City.

I am keenly interested in and appreciate the situation facing the livestock industry, which has been so excellently portrayed by the representatives of the two national organizations. In brief but clear statements, these men explained the many problems with which they are confronted and the urgent need of all public agencies formulating and applying such policies as would better assist the industry further along the path of recovery.

The stockmen present were unanimous in the opinion that the security of their business depended upon the restoration of ranges adversely affected by drouth. They also pointed out that if these men are to advance along the road to recovery and meet their financial obligations, it is extremely desirable that all uncertainty as to the tenure of permits be removed. It was suggested, therefore, by the representatives of the stock interests that the reissuance of term permits in accordance with the past policy of the Forest Service would be a step in the right direction and accepted by stockmen permittees as a valuable aid. This problem was discussed thoroughly.

All industries have felt the effects of the depression. Most industries are still in an unsettled state. During the past year, the National Government has for the first time attempted to place the vast public domain under administration and regulation through the establishment of a Grazing Administration in the Interior Department. Some action of the kind was necessary both

in the interest of the livestock industry and to save the public range from destruction by misuse. The Department of Agriculture has also been extending every effort to stabilize this industry and assist it through the period of drouth and depression. Proper integration of policies between the two departments appears desirable before long-time contractual obligations can be made by the Forest Service. For this and other impelling reasons it is my judgment that only annual permits should be issued for the season of 1935 for grazing on the national forests.

Another question which was emphasized by representatives of the livestock industry was the need of federal agencies coordinating their policies so that the credit structure of the livestock industry would be properly safeguarded. I have assured the stockmen of my interest in the development of a policy which would protect all interests. I am hopeful that this can be effected through conferences among interested agencies.

Since term permits expired in 1934, and under existing rules and regulations, the Forest Service is obligated to review the question of distribution of grazing privileges, the stockmen naturally have felt considerable alarm as to any action of the Forest Service which might curtail the privileges of present users. The Forest Service is obligated to make the use of national forest ranges contribute to the greatest possible extent to the permanence, maintenance, and welfare of local communities. It is a very large and difficult social and economic problem. It involves all the various factors of proper land-use planning, based upon a comprehensive knowledge of the adaptability of soils to crops, marketing conditions, and the various problems of successful farm management. In view of this fact, it is my hope that the Department of Agriculture will find it possible to initiate an intensive economic survey of these various local communities dependent on national forests and public domain. This survey should determine such economic limits as conditions in each locality justify, and furnish a sounder basis on which, in the future, to approve applications. Pending this survey, however, the Forest Service feels it can proceed to

take care of those applicants who by the location and character of their ranch property are dependent upon the national forests for a reasonable amount of range, without in any way interfering with the application of the results of the broad survey recommended.

The Durability of Branding Paints

THE last branding paint test conducted at the Wyoming Experiment Station (reported in National Wool Grower, May, 1932, page 27), showed that the durable paints were not scourable and vice versa. In 1932-33 and 1933-34 several commercial paints and some of our own formulas were tried out. These paints were used to brand range ewes, in lots of five and ten; five ewes branded with each paint in the 1932 test and ten with one paint and five with each of the other paints in the 1933 test.

The durability of the branding paints used in the 1932-33 test was found to be as follows:

Durability of Branding Paints 1932-33 Test

| Paint | Color | Durability At six months | Durability at twelve months |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| New Mintra | Black | 5 Good | 5 Illegible |
| G & H | Red | 2 Illegible | 5 Illegible |
| | | 3 Poor | 5 Illegible |
| G & H | Black | 4 Illegible | 5 Illegible |
| | | 1 Fair | 5 Illegible |
| G & H | Green | 5 Illegible | 5 Illegible |
| G & H | Blue | 5 Illegible | 5 Illegible |
| Humphreys | Blue | 2 Illegible | 5 Illegible |
| | | 2 Fair | 5 Illegible |
| | | 1 Good | 5 Illegible |
| Humphreys | Vermillionette | 3 Illegible | 5 Illegible |
| | | 2 Poor | 5 Illegible |
| | | 1 Illegible | 5 Illegible |
| British Composite | Scarlet | 2 Good | 5 Illegible |
| | | 1 Poor | 5 Illegible |
| | | 1 Fair | 5 Illegible |

No scouring tests were carried out, for all of the paint brands in this test were illegible after being on the sheep for twelve months. These sheep were range ewes which have been on the University Farm for three years in a crossbreeding test. The paint brands did not stand up well for six months. The two

Humphreys paints were celluloidin base paints made up in the Wool Laboratory at Wyoming. The British Composite sample was also made up in the Wool Laboratory and has an interesting history in that its formula was made up after considering the best features of the various British paints used during the preceding year. Thus the scarlet color seemed to hold up better than any other coloring material used in the British formulas and diatomaceous earth furnished the best filler, etc.

The 1933-34 Test

The Wool Industries Research Laboratory at Leeds, England, had furnished the U. S. Department of Agriculture with some of their best formulas of branding paint to try out under American conditions, and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture sent some to Wyoming for us to test. Some commercial paint of a new type was also furnished by the Tamms Silica Company. These were the paints used in the 1933-34 test, the results of which are given in the table below:

Durability of Branding Paints 1933-34 Test

| Paint | Color | Durability | |
|--------------|----------|---------------|------------------|
| | | At Six Months | At Twelve Months |
| British | Dark Red | 10 Excellent | 5 Good |
| | | | 4 Fair |
| Tamms Silica | Yellow | 5 Fair | 1 Fair |
| Tamms Silica | Red | 5 Illegible | 5 Illegible |
| Tamms Silica | Black | 5 Good | 2 Fair |
| | | | 3 Illegible |

In the 1933 test a larger number of the paints tested were more durable than those tested in the preceding year. The silica base paints were mixed with a water solvent. The yellow and black paints were much thinner than the red. The black made a splendid mark when applied. The yellow seemed too light a color. The red seemed too thick but made a good mark. The British paint was the most durable of all those tested in the past two years and should prove very satisfactory, as it carried

over six months without any dimming and even went over the twelve months' period without losing all of its legibility.

The Wool Industries Research Laboratory at Leeds has tested out the scouring quality of their paint and finds it satisfactory, so the British paint of the type furnished by the U. S. Department of Agriculture should prove the most satisfactory scouring paint of those tested at this station and its durability is as good as the best. It made a very satisfactory mark when applied, and the paint had a cream-like consistency. It came to Wyoming in paste-like form and was mixed here with Oleum spiritis, which had been used in all of the other British paint formulas.

The whole question of branding paints is up to the American manufacturers. The growers will use scouring paints, if the manufacturers desire them enough to pay a premium for those which will scour out. Paint manufacturers have spent considerable time and money in developing suitable paints, and yet the wool grower finds that he might as well use natural hematite material and linseed oil for his red brands and lamp black and oil for his black brands, for no discrimination is made by the market men, or possibly the more likely situation is that they will not pay a premium for paint brands which will scour out.

Robert H. Burns,
University of Wyoming.

Hearings on Commission Rates and Stockyard Charges

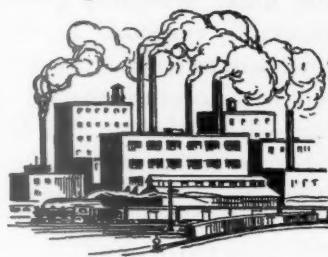
THE hearing scheduled by the Packers and Stockyards Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry on the rates charged by the Denver Union Stock Yards Company for March 18 has been postponed to June 3.

The same division has also announced hearings on the commission rates at Ogden, and North Salt Lake, Utah, for April 17th and 29th respectively.

The National Wool Marketing Corporation



News Bulletin



• • • • •
GROWER OWNED AND OPERATED

THE low ceiling overhanging wool for weeks has now been lifted, the sky is brighter and the horizon clearer. Heavy buying by manufacturers and a promising outlook for mill operations feature the improved situation. Up to the beginning of April, manufacturers and topmakers had reduced the unsold surplus by at least 100,000,000 pounds. Mill buying in March averaged about 8,000,000 weekly by accredited houses alone. Before the new clip comes along in volume the 1935 surplus will have melted away considerably.

The manufacturing outlook for the wool industry is regarded as propitious. Progress in men's wear cloths for fall has been so favorable from the start of the new season that good summer activity in the mills seems assured with much additional business to be placed. This in addition to the government orders, not to mention summer fabrics for the civilian trade, makes a favorable prospect for mill operation during the coming months. The spread of business has tended to create a less competitive condition than normal for this period of the year.

Wool dealers, rid of several encumbrances that prevented free and uniform action last year, are moving along with confidence that a very stable and orderly market will feature wool merchandising throughout 1935. The fact that wool operations are being conducted on a price basis deflated of those influences which in 1933 carried all commodities skyward on a wave of optimism, is construed as highly favorable to the security of the wool position as affecting growers and dealers alike.

A steady absorption of native grown wool around current price level is anticipated. The decline in the price of wool from a year ago has been extensive, approximately 28 per cent in the territory group which may be regarded as the barometer of the domestic price situation. While no expectations are advanced at this time regarding higher prices, an upward move when conditions become opportune seems more probable than any breakdown to a lower level on domestic grown wool.

The wool marketing plan for the 1935 clip, so modified as to bring about a healthier measure of cooperation between wool growers, dealers, and consumers, virtually establishes a free market for wool and

is regarded as the most constructive piece of legislation possible under prevailing conditions. In general, co-operation has been substituted for control and wool will again be merchandised under economic conditions of supply and demand. As the Administration is sympathetic to the wool grower, it is taken for granted that he will receive fair profits for his products. Dealers may anticipate reasonable profits on their operations, and manufacturers, for their part, are likely to find themselves in a position to secure domestic wool at prices in a line with their needs.

Wool growers may use their own discretion as to whether they sell for cash or consign their wool. Borrowers from regional agricultural credit corporations and production credit associations, as well as growers whose notes are under pledge to an intermediate credit bank through privately capitalized credit institutions, may either sell or consign their wool and mohair to approved consignees. However, the Farm Credit Administration recommends consignment to approved consignees such as the National Wool Marketing Corporation, or other recognized wool cooperatives and the affiliated group of reputable and financially responsible dealers.

Leaders in the market here are of the opinion that 1935 will be almost exclusively a consignment year. This, it may be noted, will not cover the thousands of small producers in the fleece-wool states, nor the big packers who produce the greater part of the pulled wool and are outside the government merchandising plan. It is expected, however, that the plan as modified will bring about such a satisfactory and stable market that the merchandising of fleece and pulled wools will fall into a line with the trend of a more uniform market.

Prices at which wool is being heavily bought by manufacturers are much lower than a year ago at this time. The enormous slump in wool consumption in 1934 and the steady decline in the foreign competitive markets were contributory factors. No human power could have prevented a fall in domestic prices and although the recession was orderly, it nevertheless carried wool down to a basis which now seems invulnerable to anything that can be foreseen at this time.

Disappointment is expressed in some quarters that the extensive movement to the mills has not lifted prices but under prevailing conditions this could hardly be reasonably expected. However, wool is now on a very firm basis to which growers, dealers, and manufacturers will have to adjust themselves cooperatively. The average selling price on the Montana and similar graded territory group, comprising the six grades, clean basis, Boston rates, is shown herewith:

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| First Quarter 1934 | 79.2 cents |
| Second Quarter 1934 | 76.2 " |
| Third Quarter 1934 | 70.6 " |
| Fourth Quarter 1934 | 67.6 " |
| First Quarter 1935 | 61.4 " |
| April, 1935 | 57.0 " |

That the 1935 clip will show a sharp decrease is taken for granted. The Department of Agriculture gives the production of wool in the United States for 1934 at 418,000,000 pounds, shorn and pulled. The average annual production for the preceding five years 1929-33 was 414,000,000 pounds. The unusual drouth last summer alone prevented the 1934 clip from topping all previous records. An analysis of recent reports of the Department of Agriculture discloses very clearly the grounds for believing that this year's clip will run from 10 to 12 per cent less than a year ago. The 14 western range states as of January 1 had 71 per cent of the total sheep of the United States, producing normally about 75 per cent of the entire clip. The number given, 36,783,000 is 7 per cent less than for January 1, 1934. Average range conditions January 1, were only 76 per cent of normal as compared with 85 per cent in 1934 and a 10-year average condition of 88.5 per cent. These two facts—a decrease of 7 per cent in the number of sheep and a decline of 9 per cent in range conditions—seem to indicate that the estimate of a 10 per cent reduction is very conservative.

Importing of combing and clothing wools into the United States for year to date is probably at the low point for the past decade and inasmuch as there is more wool in sight—including the 1935 surplus and the new clip—than the mills are likely to utilize in the months ahead, it will become necessary, so it would seem, for the National and other consignees of native wool, to see that the prices asked on domestic wool are kept pretty close to, or possibly slightly below, the prices at which competing foreign wools can be imported. Substantial imports of comparatively cheap foreign wool into an over supplied domestic situation would disrupt very seriously the general wool structure, par-

ticularly as applied to prices that domestic growers would be likely to receive on their production.

However, sales at the foreign wool centers tend to strengthen. The second series of London wool auctions near the end of March closed with merinos and fine crossbreds up 5 per cent from the opening day of the series. Prices compared with those of the closing of the previous series were fully par on good Australian and at par to 5 per cent higher on Cape wools. American purchases were negligible.

Improvement in the Colonial wool markets continues spontaneously and without any particular effort on the part of sellers to advance their rates. It would seem as though there were a general realization on the part of those nations that have to depend in very good part on Australia for the finer wools that the raw material is cheap and that it may be bought with a good measure of confidence that the bottom has been reached for some time to come.

Although the United States is normally one of the wool importing nations, the increased production of wool by native growers in recent years has been in sufficient volume to come very close to actual consumption needs. Consequently, imports of combing and clothing wool have contracted enormously and the United States is now not much of a factor either in Australia or elsewhere. However, it has to be noted that the coarser, longer wools for carpet and rug manufacturing are not produced in the United States, hence it follows that these wools have to be imported to the full degree of the manufacturing consumption.

The wool selling season in the Colonial markets is now at the peak of activity and the curtailed offerings of the first part of the season have been followed by more generous catalogs. The size of current offerings is sufficient to supply a sound test of values and wool is changing hands freely at fair to firm prices. Although supplies in primary markets were above the average the beginning of the second half, they merely reflected the sub-normal buying in the first half of the season of major consuming countries who still have to purchase for prospective requirements in the months ahead.

Heavy German buying in the English market has reduced supplies of British grown wool to the smallest point for years and has also denuded very considerably the free stocks of Colonial wool in importers' hands. Germany, one of the largest wool consumers in the world, and a distributing center for contiguous nations, for the greater part of last year made purchases much below normal by reason of financial and economic difficulties, but is now operating more freely under special exchange agreement in the markets of South Africa and South America. Although German activity in Australia has been much less pronounced than in the other two markets, the Reich has been buying large weights of Australian wool, grease, scoured and tops through London. Russia also bought on a fair scale.

With the Women's Auxiliaries

OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL AUXILIARY

President, Mrs. J. R. Eliason, Salt Lake City, Utah
 First Vice President, Mrs. Herman Oliver, John Day, Oregon
 Second Vice President, Mrs. Leon Contor, Idaho Falls, Idaho
 Secretary, Mrs. Parley A. Dansie, Salt Lake City, Utah
 Treasurer, Mrs. David Smith, Salt Lake City, Utah
 Historian, Mrs. Harlan Hill, Prosser, Washington
 Parliamentarian, Mrs. Elmer E. Corfman, Salt Lake City, Utah
 Press Correspondent, Mrs. Ella I. Livingston, Salt Lake City, Utah

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

New President for Utah Auxiliary

MRS. A. M. SWALLOW of Salt Lake City has been elected as the president of the Utah State organization to succeed Mrs. J. R. Eliason, who resigned following her election as president of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the National Association.

Mrs. Swallow was corresponding secretary for the state organization and a member of the board of directors.

Umatilla County

THE Umatilla Chapter of the Women's Auxiliary to Oregon Wool Growers met at the home of Mrs. Walter Smith of Pilot Rock on March 9. There were 13 members and five visitors present with one new member enrolled. The ladies of this chapter are sponsoring a cooking school and style show late in March or early April. The garments entered in the style show are to be hand-made of woolen material or yarn, and prizes will be given for

the best garment. A dance is being planned for an early date, and the ladies have invited the Heppner Auxiliary to a luncheon on May 11. The banquet and dance held on February 9 was a grand success as is everything undertaken by this chapter.

New officers were installed at this meeting, after which a program was enjoyed by all. The afternoon closed with a dainty luncheon served by the hostess.

Mrs. T. G. Elliott, Secretary.

Grant County

THE Grant County Chapter of the Women's Auxiliary to Oregon Wool Growers met at the city hall in Prairie City, March 16 at 1:30 p. m., the occasion being a benefit luncheon and bridge party given by the Prairie City unit of this chapter. Following the brief business meeting the gathering was entertained by the singing of "Indian Love Song" by Norma Martin, and "When Irish Eyes are Smiling" by Inez Dondalson. The remainder of the afternoon was spent playing bridge with 21 tables in play. The high score was made by Mrs. Dunnick of John Day, second high by Mrs. Heisler of The Dalles, and low by Mrs. Lester Campbell of Prairie City. The hope chest given away by the National Wool Growers Auxiliary at the convention in Phoenix in January and won by Mrs. Lester Bradford of Prairie City was on display and received many words of approval. The meeting was adjourned after a very pleasant afternoon to meet at Dayville in April, the place and date to be announced later.

Louise Moore, Secretary.

Material for this page should be sent to
 Mrs. Ella I. Livingston, National Press Correspondent, 239 East South Temple Street, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Harney County

THROUGH the authority and support of our president, Mrs. Herman Oliver of John Day, and the wholehearted cooperation of Mrs. Paul Stewart of Crane, I was successful in organizing a Harney County Chapter of the Women's Auxiliary to the Oregon Wool Growers Association at Crane.

On November 21 when I called the meeting to order at the home of Mrs. Paul Stewart, I was delighted to find present a group of women ready and willing to subscribe to our aims and objects.

The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Paul Stewart of Crane; vice president, Mrs. Peter Obiague of Burns; recording secretary, Mrs. Richard Jenkins of Diamond; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Joe Fine of French Glynn; and treasurer, Mrs. Clyde Weittenhiller of Crane.

In order to promote interest and increase membership, a program was mapped out whereby Harney County would be divided into four districts and chairmen were appointed for each district. It will be the duty of these chairmen to contact all the eligible women in their respective districts, and if possible to enroll them as members. To promote a friendly competition among the chairmen, a prize will be awarded to the one responsible for the greatest increase in membership. The award will be made on the basis of two points for the most members and three points for the largest number of paid-up members. Through the solicitation of the State Vice President, the Pendleton Woolen Mills has donated a beautiful two-toned woolen blanket for the grand prize. The award will be made in April at Crane, where the next meeting of our Harney County Chapter will be held.

Mrs. David T. Jones,
 State Vice President

Salt Lake Chapter

THE Salt Lake Chapter of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Utah Wool Growers held its monthly meeting and social at the Belvedere Lounge, March 11. Mrs. Wm. Oswald, vice president, presided.

Community singing was led by Mrs. O. R. Ivory. A report of the Salt Lake Council of Women was given by Mrs. Sylvester Broadbent. A talk on predatory animal control was made by Mr. Geo. E. Holman. Two vocal solos were rendered by Miss Maza Thompson, accompanied by Mrs. Margaret Larson.

Hostesses for the social hour were Mrs. R. H. Winder, Mrs. A. M. Bertagnole, Mrs. A. H. Anderson, and Mrs. Ella I. Livingston.

A Good Soap for Woolens

AT the recent meeting of the Idaho Auxiliary at Boise, the question of washing woolen blankets came up and Mrs. Drake of Challis, Idaho, has since sent in the following formula for making soap particularly good for washing woolens. So many inquiries have been made about it, that we thought it might interest the women of other states.

Cold Soap

Melt, strain and clarify 6 pounds of mutton tallow to remove impurities. Put one can of lye in a stone jar, add 6½ cups cold water, let stand until cold. Dissolve two tablespoonfuls of borax in one-half cup hot water and add to lye. Melt fat, warm slightly, and pour gradually into lye, stirring constantly. Add one-half cup ammonia to the mixture before it is quite cold. Stir until thick as pancake batter and cool in a tub or box and cut into bars. Let stand a week to ripen, and store in a dry place.

Ellen Fowler, Secretary.

Examination for Grazier

BELLOW is printed the announcement recently sent out by the United States Civil Service Commission covering the filing of applications not later than April 22, 1935, for the position of grazier in the

Division of Grazing Control, U. S. Department of the Interior.

A comparison of this recent announcement with that covering the examination earlier in the year discloses a change in the educational qualifications. The earlier requirement in this connection was that applicants "must have been graduated from a standard high school or must have at least 14 units of credit acceptable for college entrance," while in the present announcement, this point is covered as follows:

They (applicants) must have been graduated from a standard high school or must have at least 14 units of credit acceptable for college entrance; provided, that persons who do not meet the high-school requirement but who are otherwise qualified, will be given a mental test, occupying 1 hour and 30 minutes, in which nonpreference applicants must attain a rating of at least 60, applicants granted military preference a rating of at least 55, excluding preference credit, and, applicants granted disability preference a rating of at least 50, excluding preference credit. If an applicant is required to take this test, he will receive a card admitting him to the examination.

The amount of experience required of applicants is the same in both instances.

The announcement of the Civil Service Commission just issued follows:

Applications for the position of grazier, Division of Grazing Control, Department of the Interior, must be on file with the U. S. Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., not later than April 22, 1935.

The entrance salary is \$3,200 a year, subject to a deduction of 3½ per cent toward a retirement annuity.

The duties are, under the supervision of the Assistant Director of Grazing, to have charge of a range district or districts; to preside at meetings of local committees; to give expert advice on range management, including livestock movements and types of range vegetation and browse.

Full information may be obtained from the Secretary of the United States Civil Service Board of Examiners at the post office of the first or the second class, or from the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C.

Railroad Revenue Raised, Livestock Rates Unchanged

LAST summer the Interstate Commerce Commission conducted hearings and investigations in the case known as Ex Parte 115, which was on the proposal of carriers to increase most freight rates by 10 per cent for the purpose of increasing freight revenue 172 million dollars.

In 1931, Ex Parte 103, which proposed a 15 per cent increase, was decided unfavorably to carriers.

In the recent case it was claimed the pensions and wage increases for railroad employees made it imperative that new revenue be found. The case of pensions was ruled against by the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals and now is before the Supreme Court. An application for the lowering of the 1929 wage levels, which became effective on April 1, is to be filed early in May.

The Commission voted on March 30 against the 10 per cent raise, but by a vote of five to four granted emergency increases which will amount to 85 million dollars per year. The Commission declined to approve emergency charges for grain, grain products, rice, hay, straw, cotton, cottonseed, citrus fruits, white potatoes, fresh vegetables, dried beans and peas, cattle, sheep, hogs, milk, lumber and fertilizer.

Emergency increases of 7 per cent on other carload freight is allowed, subject to a maximum of 5 cents per hundred pounds. Less than carloads, shipped less than 220 miles, are to bear no increases, evidently a recognition of the certainty that such traffic would go to the trucks under higher rates.

In regard to the proposal for a general 10 per cent raise, the Commission said:

Upon the evidence it is our conclusion that the increases proposed, considered as a whole, many of which by their nature may be established only by incorporation into the existing rate structure, would in many individual cases increase revenues, if at all, only temporarily; that many such increases

would result in undue prejudice and preference as between different classes of traffic and as between different communities and shippers; that in many instances the proposals would result in distortion of relations prescribed by us for which distortion no sound justification has been presented; that the ultimate effect of establishing the proposed rates as a whole would probably be to harm rather than help the railroads through diversion of traffic to other forms of transportation and in other ways; and that the proposals would increase the rates upon certain kinds of traffic above a just and reasonable level.

This latter conclusion applies particularly to certain products of agriculture, to livestock, and to certain products of forests.

Conditions in Arizona

RANGE conditions in southern Arizona are the best in a decade. Rains have been abundant and well spaced and the temperature range mild. As a result the deserts are veritable flower gardens. The luxuriance of the grasses in places is amazing.

In the higher altitudes in the central and northern parts of the state, the precipitation has also been heavy. Stock water is plentiful and the outlook for early spring feed is excellent. Generally speaking it looks as if the drouth is down and out for the count.

Reports are that the early lamb crop is good both as to numbers and quality. Losses have been light and lambs have thrived without a set back. The first shipments of the season's crop to the Kansas City market are going forward today, March 25, from the Mesa section of the Salt River Valley. These lambs are in prime condition, and in the opinion of men whose judgment is not usually at fault in such matters, they will average from 85 to 90 pounds per head on the scales in Kansas City. Thus far there has been no contracting here to packers or others for future delivery.

Shearing is going ahead at full blast and will be finished in the southern part of the state early in April. Much wool is being sold locally to eastern buyers. More than 1,000,000 pounds is said to have already changed hands at prices rang-

ing from 16 cents to 19 cents per pound. Numerous other sales are said to be in prospect of consummation.

Bert Haskett.

Reorganization Planned for Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association

ORGANIZATION difficulties in Texas were ironed out at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Sheep and Goat Raisers Association of Texas, held in San Angelo on March 15, when the committee voted 27 to 2 in favor of the merging of their association with that of the Texas Wool and Mohair Association, an organization whose formation has been sponsored during the past year by the warehousemen and other wool buying interests of the state.

Prior to the meeting of the executive body of the Sheep and Goat Raisers Association, special committees from both organizations had reached an agreement upon the constitution and by-laws to govern a new association in which both set-ups would be merged. The proposed constitution and by-laws were accepted by the Executive Committee of the Sheep and Goat Raisers Association and a committee, consisting of Sol Mayer, Roy Aldwell, and H. C. Noelke, was appointed to present the matter by mail to the entire membership of the association. If a majority vote favorably on the proposal, a meeting will be held on April 25 at San Angelo to effect the reorganization of the Texas sheep and goat men.

Under the proposed constitution, the name of the association is to be the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association, with official headquarters to be designated by the Board of Directors. This Board of Directors is to consist of no fewer than 50 members for the first year and after that may be increased to not more than 150 members.

The president and two vice presidents of the association will be elected annually and no person "shall

be eligible to reelection for any consecutive term for the same office." Election of the president is to be by secret ballot and not by show of hands.

Membership fees, now collected on the per head basis are, under the proposed constitution, to be "one-tenth of one cent per pound per annum on the total net pounds of wool and/or mohair produced by each member, payable within thirty days of the date of sales of said wool and/or mohair." Warehouses and other wool firms will handle the collection of these dues. For each warehouse member, the fee is to be \$5.00 per year for each 100,000 pounds of wool handled by it.

Provision is made for affiliation with the National Wool Growers Association, and a suitable periodical is to be designated as the official publication of the association.

At the present time the Sheep and Goat Raisers Association has 677 paid-up members and the Texas Wool and Mohair Association, 211.

Livestock Marketing Association Organized in Utah

THE Producers Livestock Marketing Association of Salt Lake City, was organized at a meeting of livestock men in Salt Lake City April 5. The association was organized under state and federal laws relating to agricultural cooperative groups and covers Utah, Idaho, Wyoming and Nevada.

S. M. Jorgensen of Salina, president of the Utah Wool Growers Association, is president of the new group. Joseph F. Finlinson of Leamington is vice president, and I. H. Jacob of Salt Lake City is secretary and treasurer. These, with W. D. Beers, Sylvester Broadbent, T. Tracy Wright, J. A. Wright, of Salt Lake City; Harold E. Davis of Vernal, Lincoln A. Stookey of Clover and Peter Clegg of Tooele, are directors and incorporators of the association.

The association will become affiliated with the National Livestock Marketing Association.

Lamb Market Conditions and Prices

Chicago

Despite a serious dearth of other animal foods, especially pork, late winter lamb trade was disastrous to feeders. Consumer resentment at rising meat prices involved lamb disastrously. From the high point in January to the low in March top lambs dropped from \$9.85 to \$8.25; from the early March high at \$9.35, the decline was slightly more than a dollar. The slump did not involve top cattle, but did affect medium and common steers 50 to 75 cents per hundred, hogs losing \$1 per hundred. At the end of March top cattle sold at \$14.20; hogs, inclusive of the tax, at \$11.50, while the best lambs available could not beat \$8.35. At the extreme low spot killers bought acres of fed lambs in the \$7.50@8 range.

Delegations of western feeders on voyages of discovery did not locate the Senegambian in the wood pile, if one exists. A postal card correspondence would have developed as much information as they elicited. They were glad-handed, dined, and conciliated, one bunch going to the Atlantic seaboard to insert a probe, although this junket will be as productive of results as a Congressional investigation. Stereotyped advice to finish lambs and regulate the movement had a satirical flavor in view of lofty feed bills, narrow spreads between high and medium dressing stock, and the fact that feeders had been nursing the market all winter in a forlorn hope of running into more favorable trading conditions.

A \$10 late winter market had been a popular bet earlier in the season; an \$8 trade developed. Late in March the flood gates were opened, Colorado filled the hopper at Denver and the advance guard of an ovine army from California got in motion. At that stage Colorado and western Nebraska were officially

credited with 665,000 held back compared with 705,000 at the corresponding period of 1934 and 760,000 in 1933, but it was necessary to reckon with California, and considerable stuff was lying around feed lots adjacent to Chicago, including westerns rescued from starvation in northwestern Iowa at mid-winter. Unless the dressed market becomes receptive, this will constitute abundance.

A series of convulsions has visited the dressed market. Without doubt lamb has been adversely affected by popular resentment of advancing cost of other meats although this particular commodity has been relatively, if not actually cheap. A pestiferous crew of pseudo domestic economists have churned the air with admonition to throw meat out of the diet; meatless menu concoctions have had an inning and meat counters in chain stores have been deserted. Lambs on the hoof have cost 75 cents to \$1 per hundred less than at the corresponding period of 1934. Normally it is the costliest meat vended; on this occasion it has been the cheapest, choice beef carcasses wholesaling at \$2 per hundred above similar grade lamb; fresh pork loins \$8 per hundred higher. Between early and late March wholesale lamb prices declined \$2 per hundred at Chicago and as much as \$3 in New York. Chicago wholesale prices slumped from a \$14@18 basis early to \$12@16; New York from \$16@20 to \$13@17. A year ago dressed lambs wholesaled in Chicago at \$13.50@16; in New York at \$14 to \$16.50 on a higher live market, for which wool is partly responsible.

No convincing explanation of a spread of \$6 per hundred between top cattle and lambs, or \$3.50 between top hogs and lambs is forthcoming and none can be made. A slab-sided old packing sow has cost the buyer \$10.75 per hundred at a time when top lambs could not

beat \$8.25. Only calves have sold on a parity with lambs and at times they have had an advantage of \$1 per hundred.

In an emergency created by the shortest tonnage of beef and pork for half a century, lamb should have had an inning. Everything else on the list of meats realized lofty prices. Tails, both hog and cattle, were prize packages at the retail counter; pork spare ribs, mainly bone, cost nearly as much as lamb, and trashy beef actually earned more money. In the live market stock cattle went back to the country above lamb cost; killers paid \$9 to \$10 for little steers in only fleshy feeder condition and yet acres of fat lambs trooped over the scales at \$7.75 to \$8. Fat ewes had to take cutter cow prices.

During the January to March period slaughter of sheep and lambs was slightly in excess of the same period of 1934, but allowance must be made for deficient weight, as a large share of the crop did not carry high finish or make maximum yields, a condition satisfactory to killers, as light carcasses had the call. March developed a series of heavy runs, receipts at seven major western points figuring 125,000 in excess of the same month last year, not including Denver, which was also loaded by a belated movement from Colorado feed lots. Under this load prices reacted to the pre-Christmas basis, although March started promisingly with a \$9.35 top, the first week apparently justifying \$10 expectancy. Not a single favorable development occurred subsequently. Bids were invariably 25 cents lower than the previous session; at intervals the selling side was able to put on 25 cents, but the trend was steadily downward until, at the low spot, \$8.25 was an outside price, \$7.75@8 taking a large percentage of the crop. Whenever a visiting delegation of feeders arrived the market perked up only to

lose the bloom promptly. During the final week choice lambs sold at \$8.40; the rank and file at \$8@8.25, compared with a \$9.35 top on the first round and a \$9@9.25 bulk. Shorn lambs sold exactly \$1 per hundred below woolskins. Feeders took a few lambs anywhere from \$6.50 to \$7.50. Not enough yearlings arrived to establish quotations, a few realizing \$7 to \$7.50. Fat sheep broke to \$4@5, in seasonal manner on an \$8 to \$11 dressed market.

Packers have lost nothing on this winter's turnover, but it is doubtful if lamb business has swelled their earnings. They made a bad play at the outset by putting several hundred thousand on feed to form a backlog for their merchandising policy, as at no time was this reserve needed to check rising markets, which was the obvious purpose of preparing it. Present indications are that they pulled a boner in grabbing a large percentage of the California spring lamb crop, although that deal may work out favorably as there is a seasonal demand for "springer" product at premium prices.

Short feeders made the money this winter, or to be more accurate avoided maximum loss, as demand centered on light carcasses at the expense of condition. When a packer representative admonished committees of Colorado feeders to restrict loading, and finish lambs, he did not figure in Solomonic role as Colorado held back all winter when it might have been reducing its heavy holding, and rarely has the spread between finished and fair-fleshed lambs been wide enough to justify the added feed bill. Lambs dressing 43 to 45 per cent have been selling within 50 cents per hundred of high dressers, which merely reflects consumer demand, but is no warrant for long feeds.

Contract feeding has been a losing proposition owing to high cost of gains. Lamb feeders lacked the advantageous start made by cattle feeders last fall when the latter sat in at a bargain counter, insuring

wide margins in the finality of the operation. How this experience will affect feeder demand next fall will depend on the outcome of the 1935 corn crop, for which the present prospect is promising. Feeders are congenital optimists and are always willing to take another chance. Stock cattle will be scarce and high in any event, so that many farmer feeders may put in lambs. Western breeders must exercise more care hereafter in placing lambs on feed in the corn belt, paying more attention to competency, feed supplies, and moral risk. In western Iowa suits are threatened by farmers who accepted lambs they could not handle, an organization having been effected and gubernatorial assistance solicited. Original owner loss on these lambs was heavy, as mortality was severe and the rescue process costly. Practically every animal would have been profitably sold on the range or at the market last fall.

At this writing the lamb market prospect is far from luminous. The tail end of the Colorado and Nebraska crop is in collision with the eastward movement of California springers; considerable stuff is lying in feed lots around Chicago and elsewhere that cannot be held long, and southern lambs are on the horizon. Shortage of other meats may boost lamb prices, but the anti-meat agitation is audible and ominous.

J. E. Poole.

Denver

FAT lamb trade proved rather unsatisfactory not only at Denver, but at all other markets, during the month of March. Prices dropped 50 to 75 cents during the month. Ewe prices, however, were strong to 15 cents higher at the close than at the opening. Sheep receipts were heavier in March this year than a year ago, being 301,530 head against a supply of 194,661 head received during March, 1934.

A top of \$8.75 was taking the best fat lambs early in March. The market dropped steadily until at the close a top of \$7.85 was registered,

with other lambs selling at \$7.75. Lambs from western Colorado, Utah, and Idaho were moving largely at \$7.25 to \$7.75. During the closing week of the month the first of the season's spring lambs from California arrived and sold at \$9.35, with later shipments at \$9.25. The first California lambs marketed here in 1934 sold at \$10.

Feeding lambs were scarce during the month and trade was confined to odds and ends which sold from \$4.50 to \$6. Good feeding lambs are quotable at the close of the month at \$6.25 to \$6.50.

Choice fat ewes reached \$5.50 early in March, and the same grades were quoted at this price late in the month, though none were received. Many ewes of fair quality sold at \$4 to \$4.50 and common ewes brought down to \$2.50. One load of Oregon shorn ewes, marketed near the close of the month, sold at \$4.25.

Lamb feeders are losing money at present prices. Efforts are being made by commission men and feeders to stimulate the consumption of lamb and some results are being obtained. Following a campaign in which large advertisements, calling attention to the cheapness and palatability of lamb, were carried in the leading newspapers, consumption of lamb in the city of Denver was more than doubled in one week.

There are around 660,000 lambs in feed lots of Colorado and western Nebraska, and most of them must be marketed in the next month or six weeks. Proper distribution of supply will aid materially and efforts are now being made to regulate shipments.

W. N. Fulton.

Omaha

MARCH was another disastrous and discouraging month for lamb feeders and producers. Unfavorable factors had full sway and prices worked consistently lower, the loss for the month on fat lambs summing up just about a flat dollar. A sluggish wool market and dumpy dressed markets, which were further

weakened by Lenten easing of demand, were the principal bearish influences. After working gradually downward during the first two weeks of the month, prices were at the \$8 level. There was a brief period of recovery at mid-month, after which the slump was resumed, the top at the close being \$7.95, the lowest of the year. Bulk of late sales of woolskins were at \$7.50@7.90, with heavier kinds under pressure going at \$7.40 downward. Fed shorn lambs sold at \$6.50@6.75.

Shipper demand was an important factor in stemming the downward tide, order buyers taking a good portion of the receipts. Receipts were the lightest for March since 1908, although only slightly less than a year ago, the total arrivals for the month being 148,077. It was another month of long and tedious sessions as salesmen and buyers fought for the advantage and an eleventh hour cleanup was almost a daily occurrence.

Feeders who had been withholding their offerings in the hope of an improved market were apparently becoming discouraged and letting go, judging by the predominance of weighty kinds, 100 pounds and over, which came in at the fag end of the month. Many were resorting to shearing in an effort to stave off the day of reckoning. Increasing numbers of clipped lambs were received late in the month, selling at about a dollar differential under woolskins. Movement of native spring lambs was delayed by lateness of Easter, and only odd head were received, selling at \$9.50. Quality and weight were such that they were no indication of real values. One load of California new-croppers arrived, billed direct to a packer.

Demand for feeder lambs sagged in sympathy with the slump in fat lamb values, and prices declined \$1.00 during the month. The outlet was none too broad at any time, although available supplies were absorbed despite pessimism and hesitancy of fatteners. Shipments out were well in excess of those a year ago, the total for the month being 16,512 head against 10,609 a year

ago. For the first quarter of this year 55,203 thin lambs have gone out, against 46,143 in the first three months of 1934. Early in the month as high as \$7.60 was paid for feeders, but at the close \$6.50 was taking the best fleshy kinds. Shearing lambs were in improved demand as the weather warmed, there being a fair volume of business in that branch of the trade at prices from \$6.50 up to \$7.35.

Fat ewes hit \$5.85, the highest since May, 1930, early in the month and then went into a tailspin, prices declining 65@75 cents for the month. Best lightweights sold at \$5 at the month end. Supplies were limited and demand weak. Few fat yearlings were received, the only lots available selling at \$7. Bred ewes moved in limited numbers from \$5.60 downward, with not much interest in the country, pending rain and crop developments.

H. F. Lee.

St. Joseph

RECEIPTS for March were 125,291 compared with 94,554 in February and 115,071 in March last year.

The lamb market during the month was slow and uneven with prices working to a lower level. Compared with the close of February values are \$1.00@1.50 lower. Best woolled lambs sold at \$7.95 on the close, with heavier and less desirable kinds down to \$7.25. Clips were quoted around \$6.75 on the close, against \$8 a month ago. A few small lots of spring lambs sold at \$10 about the middle of the month, with others on the close at \$9. A few loads of feeding and shearing lambs sold late at \$6.25@6.75. The supply of aged sheep was light throughout the month and the market closes lower on all classes. Ewes close around 50 cents lower, choice kinds quotable up to \$5. Older sheep are \$1.25@1.50 lower, yearlings being quotable around \$6.50, two-year-olds \$5.50 and old wethers \$4.50@4.75.

H. H. Madden.

Kansas City

THE March lamb market was a dud. It held the makings of a rising price level, but uncovered lower prices. It should have had the support of a broad demand, but got little or no consideration from meat consumers. The wool market turned "Thumbs Down" when it came to giving any assistance in first costs, and other by-products moved even less freely than wool.

The market closed February with an \$8.50 top, but on March 1, rallied 25 cents to \$8.75, which caused the belief that a rise had set in that would take lambs to a related position with fat cattle and fat hogs. In two days weakness was again in evidence,—and from then on, except as there were a few short rallies, the market gradually settled downward, until on the close fed lambs sold at \$8 down, for a net loss of 50 cents from the February close and 75 cents from the high point of March. At the low point, March 22, best lambs brought \$7.65. The highest part of the market was in the first half of the month, and the lowest in the last half. The average for the month was the lowest of the year and season, and around \$1.50 to \$2.25 lower than March, 1934, when \$9.85 was paid for wool lambs.

There were plenty of reasons advanced as to why lamb prices declined. Meat distributors said that the dressed product had to stand the entire cost live weight as wool was not much of a consideration. Also, that consumer demand was at a point where it could not be revived in volume. Some killers said that because of the repeated dust storms, pelts carried excessive dirt weights that represented a total loss. Still others pointed out that while offerings showed plenty of weight, they did not have normal finish and in many cases, carcasses displayed the traces of drouth conditions that lambs had encountered during the summer months. Perhaps the best way to analyze the situation is to say that a combination of conditions caused the low prices, but at the

same time, there remains a feeling that the price level should have been better, especially if the product had been featured more in sales channels.

As far as the general meat situation was concerned, high prices for beef and pork caused a moderate protest from consumers, but with lamb live weight around \$8, choice cattle \$13 to \$13.75, and hogs around \$12, processing tax included, it looks as if there were an opening to let the consuming public know that dressed lambs were available at reasonable prices. It has been customary to consider that the consumer learns quickly which is the lowest priced meat available. Evidently, the retail price per pound for dressed lamb did not reflect the situation. If it did, it did not register with the consumer.

High average weights gave one of the surprises of the month. More lambs weighed above 95 pounds than under that mark. Weights of 105 to 110 pounds were not unusual, and in some cases, as high as 115-pound averages were reported. Weights also represent a materially larger amount of feed consumed than was thought available. Feeders, for the most part, had counted on a rising market in March. Evidently, many had over-stayed the proper marketing time.

April 1 finds northern Colorado and western Nebraska feed lots with an uncomfortably large per cent of winter fed lambs still in first hands. The Arkansas Valley still has a larger per cent of this winter's feeding on hand than it did of last winter's feeding at the beginning of last April. On top of this, Tennessee has begun to ship early new crop lambs, and Arizona and California, with the best range and feed conditions in many years, have come into the picture as a supply source during April and May. It is estimated that more than 400,000 lambs will move eastward from California, and around 75,000 from Arizona. California meat consumers are making a strenuous protest against present retail prices, and if this situation is sustained, the out-of-state movement of fat lambs will be increased.

March practically cleaned lambs from wheat fields. The remnant is being dried out in feed lots, where they are yielding their fleeces to the shearers. Of the fed lambs still in other sections, the majority will be shorn before they have been marketed. Lambs on Kansas and Oklahoma wheat fields this past winter made remarkable weight gains. Some of the records reported are 50 to 55 pounds from November to the middle of March. One big band of lambs grazing near Pratt, Kansas, gained 55 pounds from bought weights to market weights, at a cost of 60 cents a head for the wheat pasture. There is a whole lot to this winter wheat pasturage business that feeders can consider in future years, especially if prices for other feeds get high. There is no cheaper way to get weight in winter than from wheat fields, and the gain is such that very little grain is required for producing good finish.

The sheep market was less erratic than the lamb market and repeatedly mature sheep prices advanced on days when lamb prices were lowered. March started and closed with ewes selling at \$5.25. On only four days were best ewes below \$5, and on most days they were \$5.25 to \$5.50, with the top \$5.60. The yearling market felt the competition of a liberal supply of heavy lambs and after reaching \$7.25 early in the month, they dropped to \$6.25, but rallied to \$6.60 before the close. Not enough wethers arrived to fairly test values.

Finishers gave the market good support by keeping the half-fat and shearing lambs away from killers at prices better than killers would pay.

Kansas City March receipts were 134,872, compared with 142,900 in the same month 1934. For the three months this year arrivals were 346,575, as compared with 421,342 in the same period last year.

C. M. Pipkin.

California Lamb Contracts

THE Market News Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture issued the following statement on the movement of California spring lambs for the week ending March 30:

Three days of warmer weather in California have improved feed and range conditions so that lambs are making more than usual gains. Trading in the country has been generally slow, only a few contracts being drawn by packers during the past week, and a very few being bought by lamb traders. Fat lambs f.o.b. country points this week are from \$1.50 to \$2 lower than early contracts for March delivery, several thousand being contracted at \$7.50 to \$8 per hundred pounds, main line points. It is estimated that between 375,000 and 400,000 lambs are held on contract at the present time, the bulk on a basis of \$8.50 to \$9 per hundredweight, with deliveries running into April and May, especially those contracts drawn during the past three weeks. The few thousand bought early at \$10 will be taken in March. Several thousand have been received at San Francisco and Los Angeles, a few to the Midwest the past ten days. Those weighed thus far are scaling 84 to 92 pounds and it is the general consensus of opinion that bulk of the early fat lambs will average approximately 12 to 15 pounds more than those under normal conditions during the past few years. Early dressing yields have been almost phenomenal.

In the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys the past week the bulk of contracts were drawn on an \$8 per hundredweight basis, with a few bands of good lambs at \$7.50. In the Bakersfield section a few were secured at \$7.85 to be weighed off trucks at Los Angeles, with considerable late bids at \$7.50 per hundredweight. Interior California minor plants have been securing small lots of 82 to 87-pound choice lambs for immediate slaughter direct from the growers at \$7.50 per hundred pounds. In the Imperial Valley, a sizable string of lambs scored \$7.50 per hundred, with a few thousand shorn ewes at \$2.75, f.o.b. loading point.

A few decks have moved to the Midwest via the southern route. During the week ending March 30, approximately 70 single decks, or 9,512 head of live spring lambs were shipped out of California by all routes, the total to date this year approximating 92 single decks, or 12,608 head compared with only 2,600 a year ago. The total movement of Californias through intermountain markets for the season to date numbered 58 decks, or 10,639 head.

The bulk of slaughter at San Francisco, Los Angeles and interior points now consists of spring lambs.

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National Wool Marketing Corporation

To the Wool Growers of the United States

We fully appreciate the responsibility of marketing the substantial amount of wool we have received, and wish to express our appreciation for the growers' support.

Wool values have not been maintained on the basis we at first expected, due largely to the very complicated foreign situation, which has reduced wool values abroad, but which no one could foresee. Everything is being done, however, to maintain values on a proper relative basis with foreign wools, and there is no intention whatever on the part of those who are attempting to stabilize this market to allow any further reduction in prices here unless forced to by foreign competition, which today seems most unlikely.

While the market has been extremely dull for some time, there are a great many factors on the horizon that could materially improve this situation, and we have no doubt but that all the available wool will be needed. If growers will continue to work with us, and exercise the necessary amount of patience, we feel sure they will be satisfied with our efforts.

The cheap wool that is being offered from the West today is one factor that is very upsetting to this market, and it would be far better for the whole industry if these Western wools that are being offered from there were shipped to us so they could not undermine the prices that have been established here.

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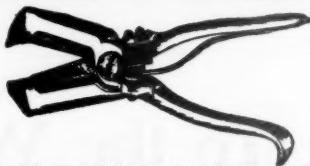
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Mr. Poole on Processing Taxes

A PROCESSING tax bug is hatching at Washington, the definite proposition being to put imposts on lamb and beef. Senate committee hearings have developed opposition, especially of cattle interests which realize that, as in the case of hogs, any tax will be deducted from the market price. A no less authority than George Putnam, economist for the Institute of American Meat Packers, stated at this hearing that the \$2.25 tax on hogs had been deducted from the price paid growers and that if the tax was removed that amount would be added to the price. Of course growers get at least part of the tax, but the system puts them in a position where they must sign up or lose that portion of the value of their property. Last fall pig feeders refused to operate unless growers remitted the tax which resulted in a \$2 to \$2.50 stock pig market. A tax of 20 cents per hundred on lamb would be less serious, but breeders would pay it.

The whole processing tax scheme is under fire. An initial test suit has been started by the creditors of the Fink Packing Company at Newark, New Jersey, which owed the government \$612,000 for hog taxes when it was sold out, the plant realizing less than the tax, which the government intends to collect unless stopped. Should processing taxes be imposed on cattle and sheep, growers will probably resort to the courts. Packers went along with the program as they could not afford to align themselves against the New Deal, but inevitably the worm turns. Recently the processing tax plan has been violently assailed in Congress; eastern newspapers are attacking it in broadsides on the theory that the consumer pays whereas the producer is penalized by the impost. Collection of corn hog taxes is "in the red" to an amount not yet disclosed.

J. E. Poole.



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Around the Range Country

(Continued from page 13)

the eastern portion generally. It was an unfavorable month for lambs as a rule, and much of the time unfavorable for all livestock. Very little sheep shearing was done.

Boyd

While range conditions are only fair now (March 29), we have better prospects for good spring range than we had last year.

Reports from early lambing operations indicate that results are about the same as they were last year.

No wool deals have been transacted yet.

Coyotes are not so bad as they have been, because more trappers have been at work.

I think sheepmen have been able to reduce their operating costs a little during the past two years or so.

Albert Hill.

Condon

We have had a late spring. It is windy and dry (March 23) and the feed is not too good. It is much drier than for the past several years, and unless we have rain and lots of it, spring feed conditions will be bad.

Coyotes seem to be more prevalent than ever; where they come from is hard to say, as the Biological Survey had them practically cleaned up last fall.

J. B. Huddleston.

Promise

Weather conditions through February were ideal—warm and sunny—and March came in fine, but on the third a 6-inch snow came, followed by almost zero weather, which has made lambing losses heavy. Another snow on March 7 also caused considerable loss.

I am a small wool grower, located in a territory of small growers, and I am of the opinion that it lies with



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the large growers to try and show the smaller ones that they are on the map and a part and parcel of the sheep business, and to point out to them the benefits that come to them as a result of the work done by the wool growers' organization. It is very natural for the small grower to turn out fifty or a hundred head of sheep in a pasture to care for themselves through the day and invariably they think the government trappers should protect them against loss through predatory animals. It is up to the members of the sheepmen's organization to show these men how, why, and where the finances come to keep the government men on the job and also to show them what power there is in a strong organization. A drive should be made to get the so-called little fellows interested in the associations.

C. E. Gorbett.

Denio

Hay is very scarce (March 29), and the grass is just starting. It is

about two months later than it has been for two years past. But feed will be very plentiful from now on, except in the high mountains.

We have just gone through a very long, hard winter, partly due to the drouth of last year and partly due to so many storms this spring. The snow has just begun to melt enough so the sheep and cattle can get a little grass. The only warm growing weather we have had for a month came last week. It is rather hard on all cattlemen right now with poor heavy cows, also cows with calves, and sheepmen with heavy ewes that are in very poor condition, as the grass is too short to do much good. There will be some loss the next 20 days, but we are going to have lots of grass and what is also important, plenty of water in all creeks, springs, etc. We are going to have lots of water for hay and grain.

Since the price has dropped so low on coyote hides, all the farmers, and some professional trappers have

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Range Rams

stopped trapping, so the coyotes are on the increase. If things keep on, they are going to get pretty thick. A bounty would help some, also give a little return to the ranchers.

Lambing starts in this country around the 10th of April and shearing around May 1.

Jesse G. Holloway.

WASHINGTON

Temperatures were mostly below normal, and while a few growing spells occurred, growth has not been as good as usual. Precipitation was patchy, though frequent, and at times fairly general. Field work has been delayed in places. Wheat is still mostly good. The weather has been quite hard on lambs, though losses were not heavy. Livestock in general are in good condition. Everything needs warmth.

Ritzville

The wind is blowing a gale today (March 24) and has been for several days. The prospects for spring feed

are not very good as it is too cold and windy.

I think there are a few more ewes to lamb in this community this spring, but have heard of no wool contracting so far.

Ewes are in fairly good condition on account of an easy winter, but the coyotes are increasing at an awful rate. I have had to build corrals all over my range for the lambing bunches on this account.

Edmond Meyer.

IDAHo

Cold weather prevailed, though not severely cold, and snows with a few rains, were frequent through the month. This has held back vegetation appreciably, and been as a rule unfavorable for livestock, though practically all flocks and herds wintered pretty well. A little spring work is being done; fall grain fields look good, and livestock are mostly good. Movements are general from winter areas toward spring ranges. Lambing progressed, though weather conditions were not the best.

Level

The weather is fine (March 26), but there is no feed on the range. Conditions are much the same as they were last year, though we do have more moisture. Prospects for spring range are very good.

In the early lambing done so far, I would say the number of lambs saved per hundred ewes is about 5 per cent less than in 1934.

Coyotes are always troublesome here, but we have had some excellent trappers and they have kept them pretty well down.

David Bethune.

Blackfoot

We do not have any sheep on the range. There has been a lot of snow and the prospects for spring feed are good. Weather and feed conditions generally are better (March 12) than they were last year at this time.

A smaller number of sheep are being fed this year. All of the hay for winter use was purchased in No-

vember and December at \$9 and \$10; now it can be had at \$6 and \$7 a ton.

The average age of the flocks is better than in previous years and more ewe lambs are being retained for flock replacements than in previous years. Bred ewes are smaller in number by about 10 per cent than in 1934.

Coyotes were very bad during 1934. There have not been enough trappers at work and not enough poison has been put out.

Michael Barclay.

MONTANA

Temperature conditions were rather favorable but cold spells occurred in the first and last weeks that were quite wintry, being severe in places. Frequent snows, and some showers occurred, giving soil moisture enough for spring use. Vegetation is largely dormant yet, but there is a good prospect for grass when the snow goes. Winter again is in good shape as a rule. Minor

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lambing losses occurred, and as a rule livestock are fairly good, but they are thin in eastern portions.

Angela

The weather is ideal (March 13), but feed is poor, less than we have had at this time in previous years. About the usual number of range sheep are getting feed. Hay can be had at \$10 a ton in the stack.

Ewe bands are younger on the whole, due to the removal of old sheep under the government's drouth relief program. There are fewer ewes to lamb this spring, however, than there were last year.

Government trappers have been working here and coyotes are less numerous.

John W. Batey.

Ennis

The range feed is short (March 10), but the weather is ideal. The general price of hay is \$10 a ton in the stack, but some can be bought at \$8 and some is quoted as high as \$12.

Fewer ewes will lamb this season than last. I believe there were more lambs kept over last year to use in the breeding bands, and since the government's buying program of last fall, the average age of the ewes has been cut down until it is about as it was three or four years ago.

Owing to the low price of furs and the lack of a bounty and of government trappers, coyotes have increased greatly.

W. H. Beals.

Regina

March conditions have been very poor and prospects for spring feed are none too good as the grass is very scarce.

No lambing has been done yet, but fewer ewes were bred to lamb this spring than in previous years.

There has been no activity in wool.

We have had no trappers around here and coyotes are on the increase.

Wm. Beske.



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To save and protect your sheep and lambs from bad weather and wild animals.

They save time, labor, and loss in the lambing camp.

WRITE FOR PARTICULARS

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JUDSON E. GIBBS

Rock River, Wyoming

WYOMING

Temperatures have not been severe, excepting at times over the northern portion, for brief spells, but the drouth has continued as there has not been adequate moisture as a general rule. Conditions in much of the state are the worst of record, especially over the lower country. The subsoils are badly dried out, and even where surface moisture seems plentiful, there can be little stream flow, and vegetation growth will be restricted. Cattle are mostly in only fair to good shape, many being poor.

Rock Springs

It is very windy and dry here (March 23). We have had less moisture than usual, but if we get a lot of it, there should be pretty good feed on the spring range.

Lambing does not commence here until May, but there are fewer ewes in the bands than last year. Our winter losses are about 5 per cent.

Costs of production have increased 25 to 50 per cent, due to the necessity of feeding grain and hay.

Browns Park Livestock Co.

Annual Meeting of Corriedale Association

THE annual meeting of the American Corriedale Association was held at Cheyenne, Wyoming, February 25, 1935, with President J. H. King presiding.

The report of the Secretary showed that a total of 11,675 sheep had been recorded with the association and 1,899 transfers made. For the year 1934 there were 1,385 registrations and 220 transfers recorded.

It was voted that a committee of three be appointed to publish a pamphlet on Corriedales and to place advertisements in various periodicals for a twelve months' period. The matter of stock show premiums was held in abeyance until stock show season.

Mr. J. H. King declined the nomination for reelection as president of

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Range for Yearling Ewes
May 15 to October 1.

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the association and Mr. H. T. Blood of Denver, Colorado, was elected to that position. Mr. L. L. Crane of Santa Rosa, California, was named vice president, and Mrs. Dorothy B. Swain of Cheyenne, Wyoming, was retained as secretary-treasurer. The board of directors includes: J. H. King, Laramie, Wyo.; S. S. Wheeler, University of Wyoming; J. D. Harper, Dixon, Calif.; and R. W. Phillips, McMinnville, Oregon.

A unanimous vote of thanks was tendered Mr. King on his retirement as president, for his untiring efforts for the benefit of the association.

Professor J. A. Gorman of the University of Wyoming will assist the association in its publicity work.

Successful Lamb Castration

IN all operations affecting livestock, the element of cleanliness is of prime importance. Indeed, a major part of the success of many producers working in the cereal, vegetable, and animal fields may be traced to a proper understanding and application of methods designed to offset the growth of infectious bacteria or disease germs. In castration, where the blood-stream and tissues are exposed to foreign elements, cleanliness should be rigidly observed. To be sure, each location will present its own problems, but there should be little, if any, excuse for performing this operation under conditions which oblige the animals to move about in mud, manure, or other filth. Comparatively few stockmen are really aware of the dangers of allowing freshly castrated lambs to lie around on disease-producing filth. Sometimes conditions are so deplorable and the common laws of sanitation are so violated that the percentage of after-castration deaths is inexcusably high. If a clean place is not readily obtainable, certainly no time should be lost in carefully removing the lambs on to more sanitary ground.

Another precaution which tends substantially to reduce the death rate is the use of a good disinfectant to apply to the wounds. A container

The American Rambouillet Sheep Breeders Association

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Letterheads

For National Wool Growers Association Members

With the Official Association Emblem
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122 W. 2nd South Salt Lake City, Utah

of the disinfectant should be placed at a convenient distance, so that the blade of the castrating knife can be dipped frequently as the work proceeds. Among the numerous good disinfectants that can be used, permanganate of potash answers the purpose well. Care should be exercised not to use it too strong, thirty grains to a quart of water being a good proportion. This mixture makes a valuable disinfectant which can be used to good advantage all through the lambing. The knife should be kept clean by avoiding contact with objectionable materials. Only a careless operator will allow his knife to fall to ground that is covered with manure or filth, and only an inexperienced man would think of using a weapon so charged with infectious energy.

A third factor which makes for successful docking and castration depends upon the technique of cutting the tail. The blade of the knife should be laid across the tail at an angle of about 45 degrees,—that is, about midway between a flat and an upright position,—and about a quarter of an inch outward from the spot at which the tail is to be severed. The actual cutting itself, done only with a keen edge, should be made in a quick movement inwards toward the root of the tail, the operator pressing the loose skin before the knife-blade. With some practice the joints of the tail can be felt as the blade passes over them. When the joint at which the tail is to be severed is determined, the cut should be executed smartly. Such a cut, made directly through the proper joint, causes much less injury and the wound made heals quickly, while recovery is ensured by the fact that the loose skin pressed before the knife-blade returns and eventually covers the tail-end.

The foregoing suggestions, based on extensive experience, especially that on the Livingston Brothers Ranch at Moree, N. S. W., Australia, are offered by the writer with the hope that their practicality will at once recommend a much more general adoption.

Augusta, Mont. D. Sutherland.

In England—

At the December 1934 Fat Stock Show, Birmingham, the Champion pen went to pure bred Hampshire ewe lambs from the Clifton-Brown flock. Six pens competed for this honor. First three places on pens of cross-bred wethers went to lambs of a Hampshire cross.

In America—

At the 1934 Los Angeles Fat Stock Show, first prize on carlot fat lambs went to Hampshire cross-bred lambs. At the recent Ogden Show, two out of first three places, carlot fat lambs, won by Hampshire cross-bred lambs, and reported as under closest competition in the 16 years of the Ogden Show.

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